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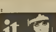

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WHAT'S HAPPENING & FUN
[illegible]
WORDS
Mark [illegible]
LAYOUT
Graham Keen

DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE
First post on following days:

Small Ads, Advertising	Wed 15th Oct.
What's Happening	Thurs 16th Oct.
Editorial Copy	Wed 15th Oct.
Music Copy	Tues 14th Oct.

ARTS LAB FUZZ RAID

Friday October 3rd 4.15pm a phone call from the Drury Lane Arts Lab saying that 15 fuzz had arrived with a search warrant issued under the Obscene Publications Act sent your IT reporter hotfoot to the [illegible] spot. The fuzz were looking for SUCK, the new underground sexpaper – freely available on stands in Holland, Germany and Scandinavia but only by subscription in England. Inside the dimly lit Lab hosts of hard faced business suited fuzz all but outnumbered the handful of kids who had been peacefully grooving. Names and addresses were taken but careful searching of drawers, cupboards etc including strangely enough a search of the kitchen spice boxes by a black labrador dog, failed to reveal any SUCKS. [illegible] was personally searched. However the fuzz took the liberty of removing all subscription files – a questionable legal procedure but duplicates of these files exist. Newsreel's bradley martin was there even before it happened and so scooped a video tape recording of the whole event. In the meantime subscriptions to SUCK are available by sending a cheque for 30/- for 10 issues to Joy Publishing of Joy Publications, Alexander Boersstraat 30 Amsterdam, Holland.

ONCE UPON A TIME there was a small, er, small magazine called IT and they had this girl [illegible] (DOES) the ads. Now she is a [illegible] All. Now you see, I don't like being hassled [illegible] all day by [illegible] or women. Now [illegible] thing with the HARE KRISHNA TEMPLE and says that they are the greatest thing, [illegible] do you see, what they [illegible]. So-o-o I try [illegible] WONDERFUL RICH APPLE HOORAY they are always good for some bread if you don't get through [illegible]

Now, I said to her, "I'll give you [illegible]" [illegible] (What a [illegible], I think) "OK, what price? £155" she says [illegible] "£100" She still [illegible] "Now [illegible] says she "we are friends of the Krishnas [illegible] SO WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THEM A FREE PAGE? [illegible] Maybe I am dead but when you get 500 people a day [illegible] you get [illegible] with all that shit about "BUT WE LOVE YOU ALL AT APPLE"

So they give you £[illegible]. BIG DEAL. (I DON'T MIND) after all it is all a day's work and we get that all day long (PEOPLE THINK THAT WE ARE GOING TO GIVE THEM SOMETHING FOR NOTHING? WELL? WE DID? THEN WE WERE SHAT UPON BY EVERYONE AND SO WAS IT. YOU SEE PEOPLE LOVE YOU BUT THEY JUST WANT TO TAKE AND NOT GIVE. Some people however are really GREAT. I MEAN GREAT

Joe Soap

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER BY TIMOTHY LEARY TO A FRIEND AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATE IN THIS COUNTRY

Berkeley Cal
October 1st 1969

Did you know that we were banned from England on September 15th. They held us at airport and would not let us make phone calls. The British govt did pay our way on TWA across Atlantic. Good thing too. They said TOP HOME OFFICE INSTRUCTIONS!

WE DEMAND A PUBLIC EXPLANATION
FROM MR. CALLAGHAN

Dear IT

I have spent the past 4 months looking for a reasonable pad, undisguised & wearing my normal every day face:

This didn't work so I tried this, with the aid of a few safety pins, hair clips rubber bands and 6/- second hand bender:

Which worked beautifully for the estate agents, and then this.

for landlords when I had to go inside and take my hat off I explained a suitcase had fallen on me.

I am now about to move into a beautiful modern, cheap pad. Perhaps other friends might like the tip.

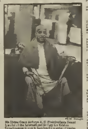
Cheers,

Mike Abelson
Flat 12, 17 Bramley St,
London W8

I'M THE REAL PAUL THOMPSON and I'd just like to say that the letter "from me" in Oz [illegible] was phoned in by a mate(?) of mine as a joke, in order to get me lumbered with a job I didn't want. I've just talked to the IT people about it & they want me to be helpful and enthusiastic and they're telling me it's a good idea to have a kind of newspaper. Well, when I'm through kicking Pete for doing this to me, I'll consider it. But I'm a busy bloke so anyone else who wants to take it over go ahead and perhaps I'll help too.

If any man has any poetry in him he should paint, for it has all been said and written and they have scarcely begun to paint it.

William Morris



Ph. by [illegible]

His Divine Grace Acharya A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness is now in London for a series of twelve chants and lectures at the Conway Hall in Holborn. The first three lectures will be on 6th, 13th & 20th Oct at 7.30 p.m. For further information ring the Radha Krishna Temple 242-0394.

ACTION FOR PEOPLE'S JUSTICE is a new organisation that was publicly launched at a press conference on Friday, 3rd October. APJ brings together people from a number of politically active groups that have undergone the most incredible treatment at the hands of the police and magistrates in the past 2 or 3 weeks. The groups include the Squatters, the London Street Commune (who effectively disassociated themselves from Sid Rawle and [illegible] his [illegible] over Paradise Island as complete and political opportunism), the Universal Coloured People's Assn (Peter Martin was just [illegible] for [illegible] the police [illegible] of the [illegible] Police), the Schools Action Union (they recently put on a play outside a school & [illegible] police [illegible] & people were arrested, one of whom is still inside awaiting trial) and the Folkestone Action Group (after whose street celebration of a gipsy wedding 13 people, including the bridegroom, were arrested and [illegible] charges brought against the [illegible]). APJ has been formed to get together a panel of sympathetic lawyers to help people to fight their cases in the courts and to found a bail and fines fund. Contact them c/o 44 [illegible] Rd London [illegible].

CINDY SCOTT of 32 [illegible] Road, Edinburgh 4, writes to say that she is trying to get a Release thing together in Edinburgh. It is operational but in a fashion, but it doesn't have an office because there isn't enough bread. Premises are virtually as expensive there as they are in London and there are the usual hassles like a [illegible] rent in advance, et cetera, Cindy says. "The trend of arrests for [illegible] drugs that at [illegible] people who were busted at the weekend are trying to get in touch with me, but I don't know who they are and they don't know where they can contact me. I have the necessary people, lawyers and a good psychiatrist and [illegible] where [illegible] but no office & no premises and [illegible] I've collected about £10, which goes nowhere. I need £[illegible] basic minimum to get properly started. All the [illegible] [illegible] that I need [illegible]. As well as small donations what would help a lot would be some individual or group who would give us enough to start the [illegible] and maybe pay the rent [illegible] if we get stuck. Could give any [illegible] [illegible] there is a real need for Release here, so something positive. Please help. Love and doors

COMMUNICATIONS ON WHEELS. At the moment the bulk of our provincial distribution is handled by individual freaks with vans who are based in towns around this country and who are co-ordinated from a base just outside London. We obviously want to improve the effectiveness of this service, because there is little point in increasing the editorial/What's Happening coverage of the provinces unless the paper is being got to the areas in question in sufficiently large numbers to make it a valid communications medium./ To do this we'd like to hear IMMEDIATELY from anyone with a van/car in the provinces who feels that they could find new outlets (eg boutiques, newsagents, record shops, university book shops, arts labs etc) in their area and supply them regularly. The bread's pretty good but it's essential that you're into the spirit of IT and the establishment of alternative business structures, rather than just for a wealth scene ie. you must be an efficient freak! All enquiries will be handed straight to the distribution company in question./ Another way in which you can help improve circulation is by sending us a list of places (see above) in your area that might be persuaded to stock IT. If you don't want to be bothered to hassle them for yourself (even though we entice you to do so with the inducement of a FREE six month subscription for each shop which places a regular order) let us have the names and addresses of the shops in question and we'll get together. Please only bother listing shops that are likely to sell IT./ Thanks we really do love you.

Dear All,

[illegible] a while about Electric Cinema, Implosion and any organisation(s) [illegible] in general, specifically

Electric Cinema got a fatal disease a few months ago – but it is about to have a miraculous recovery because finally everyone involved in working there got together and remembered where its at. If Electric Cinema exists at all, it is only when there are people in these [illegible] sitting in those seats and digging the films/music/lights/vibes.

The Electric was started on nothing more than good energy and £15 for the rent. The people who came and those who worked there knew it was as real as their carpet – and they all put out.

A few months ago the output of good energy dropped [illegible] to the [illegible] for various reasons and Electric Cinema became a mechanical event.

BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU FOLKS?
DID YOU FORGET?

[illegible] was supposed to be a community cinema, set up to share good times and give bread away to anyone trying to get or keep it together. This money went mainly to [illegible] who could always use a donation. Where were all of you with ideas and energy for no bread? There must be some!

One of the few scenes E.C. helped to start was Implosion which Roger [illegible] when he [illegible] the Electric [illegible] happened on good energy plus £100 for rent, deposit and advertising. It was set up for having good times and keeping that bread flowing because that's all bread is good for. If ever it makes a profit, you've been charged too much.

DO YOU CARE?

Why don't you let it be known where you think the bread should go? [illegible] or just which films you want to see or which groups to hear. These scenes do not exist apart from you – get involved if you dig them. Otherwise the bloodsuckers take over – grave bits.

Organisers should be obsolete. They won't be asking as [illegible] just [illegible] along, pay your money, take your chances, and split. Most of you don't seem to care whether the bastards screw you or whether you get a good deal.

BUSINESSHEADS THRIVE ON YOUR APATHY
AND THE GOOD SCENES DIE FOR LACK OF ENERGY

What it grinds down to is just my experience with E.C. and Implosion in the past year – the organisers tend to be first and last, ORGANISERS [illegible] people who dig publicising and power games. If they are not like this in the beginning, they are forced into it

MAINLY BECAUSE YOU OPT OUT

Believe it or not, it is a continuous hassle with too [illegible] to hold these scenes together [illegible] and some of us don't want to be [illegible] the story. Help! If you ever dig E.C. or Implosion, then don't wait till next year when you'll be mourning their passing [illegible] Help them to spread it out – put out good energy and turn others on to it. Rave about Friendly Cinema [illegible] E.C. and start [illegible]! Or at least bring good energy to Implosion instead of dope when you know there are [illegible] in residence from start to finish. FEEL IT! Have some fucking sense – these scenes are vulnerable unless they ARE all of us together. IMPLODE.

Love

Deanne

KILL WIFEY

JANE ARDEN is one of the most together people I've ever met: her ideas have a reality and a depth which most of the women I know haven't, yet she is a beautiful tender person (all those things men must go labeling as feminine, therefore discouraging us from ever getting beyond them). Meeting her shocked me into realising how little I normally expect from women.

I talked to her about women's liberation and the role that she plays in the movement. She was prominent on revolutionary TV programmes at the beginning of the year talking about the cause. Now she feels she was a bit silly accepting the idea that one can use the mass media to spread ideas, especially since TV and the Sunday supplements have made copy out of women's liberation – within a few months they will think that they've solved all the problems, and so will a lot of other people. A bit like the pill: now that everybody's taking it, everybody thinks it's solved the problem of women's maternal and sexual roles, when in fact all it has done is free men from the hang-ups of contraception and left women as confused as ever about their sexuality.

Jane thinks that the Underground and the various revolutionary movements have given people the illusion of having freed themselves from the old hang-ups, but under the surface the age-old myths and thought patterns hold their own (try and think how many chicks in the underground are doing anything using their heads and not their cunts). Women in the underground think they're free and groovy but in fact they've just got through a lot of the surface crap and exposed all the basic hang-ups, like the neurotic need for a strong dominating male presence to fill up their otherwise meaningless lives. We're supposedly free to go to bed and do all the things that men do, yet really we're totally trapped inside our own heads, submissive and dependent, unable to believe that we have the ability to control our own lives. Escape from that cage and they'll tell you that you're mad and what's more you deserve to be for trying to usurp the male role. Stay in that cage and let it make you then crack up and they'll tell you it's pre-natal depression, suppressed maternal feelings, the wrong kind of sex. They'll certainly not understand that you're trying to be a human being. Jane reported what an eminent psychiatrist had said to her: "I am what's known as a stroke – if people get caught into the way our society works it's my job to knock them out by telling them they're mad." One in every fourteen men go through this mulling out system at sometime in their lives but one in every NINE women will spend some time in a mental hospital where they'll be told they're mad because they're mad and not because they're living in a fucked-up society where women are regarded as the sub-species and intermittent hysterics if they can't face the idea of rearing children.

In Jane's view one of the worst things that ever happened to women was their emancipation, which most people confuse with liberation. Emancipation is epitomised by the whole female novelist syndrome (Edna O'Brien, Margaret Drabble etc) and the female journalists, among them Irma Kurtz who has just written articles on women's liberation for the Sunday Times which successfully castrate the issue of any radical potential. All these so-called emancipated women do is collude with the Establishment to define women's problems as something that can be changed by equal pay and the chance to go to Evening Classes ... they are the token women needed to shore up the liberal deal ... and have been actually bought off. Their whole scene is a complete bourgeois one characterised by all those problems of how to enrich their leisure time and keep their poor little minds ticking over whilst doing the dishes, how they can juggle the roles of career women (where they play at hard, cool and aggressive) and mistresses, where it's all submission and back against the bed. Jane gave an analysis of the sexual behaviour of the average 'emancipated' woman: striving to be accepted on male terms she unconsciously rejects the female sexual role of being chosen and then fucked. Instead she goes out and picks up the man of her choice. Under the consequent guilt pressure she reverts to the passive submissive role, which is dishonest, the relationship becomes unreal, breaks up and the pattern is repeated. Most emancipated women live a divided life, split between their heads, where they're trying to be men, and their beds, where, frightened of losing their femininity, they feel they've got to be submissive. This is not what liberation is about: the conflict is felt by us all. Why should women let themselves get hung up about being equal to men – acting like a man, letting men define you in their terms, or by being superior to men, which a lot of women see as being necessary to their freedom. Jane does neither. She doesn't treat men as an annoying irrelevance by escaping into the idea of female superiority, nor does she find it necessary to act like them in order to prove that she's as good as them. She's reached the point of genuinely being able to do her own thing, a point which very few women reach.

I asked her what she thought of S.C.U.M. Manifesto and Valerie's shooting of Warhol. 'One should never underestimate the depths of hatred in any oppressed group. Valerie was a superb figure because she didn't simply see or analyse that hatred ... she embodied it ... she was the equivalent of Kill Whitey.'

Black liberation is about the oppression of a relatively small racial group. Female liberation is about the oppression of half of mankind. Women have not got even the beginnings of a language or culture in which they can express their humanity. The only myth that women are nurtured on is that of submission. Is there anywhere in our culture the idea that women could be clever enough to organise themselves, capable of running their own lives?

One of the things that always worries me about female liberation is that it's hard to get uptight about the particular exploitation of women when 95% of the human race are exploited. Shouldn't ideas about social revolution have priority over women's particular problems? And in the whole social and economic situation there seems to be such a difference between working class and middle class women. Jane disagreed that class differences were crucial to women's fundamental problems as all women share the burden of their historical role as inferior human beings. Anyway, how many female revolutionaries do you know whose ideas are considered in any way important by men. If we did have any kind of social revolution, which it becomes increasingly difficult to hope for, women would no doubt experience the same kind of emotional and psychological restrictions they have now. It's true ... look at all of a few groovy radical men ... their attitudes to women seem to get worse. For one thing, their expectations of us are still in the roles of cook-a-mother, bedmate and decoration, and the only compensation they allow us for these restrictions is that after all we're the ones who can experience the great fulfilment of giving birth.

So what kind of action should women's liberation take? Jane thinks that one very important thing for women to realise is their own solidarity, to understand that they can have deep and lasting relationships with each other. Most relationships between women are treated as merely transitional: waiting until some man comes along and then the real living can begin.

One thing Jane said stays in my mind: 'The most radical question one can ask is what is the difference between men and women. Do we want a society where men and women are still seen as complementary to each other with rigidly defined masculinity and femininity, or do we want one where everybody can develop their own sexuality with the hope of becoming a complete person?' Women within the present system have got a hell of a struggle on to get anywhere with their lives both inside and outside their own heads. To begin with most of us have got to realise that we are so oppressed that we cannot recognise the oppression.

JANE ARDEN (AUTHOR OF THE PLAY 'VAGINA REX AND THE GAS OVEN' PRESENTED AT THE ARTS LAB EARLIER THIS YEAR)

MAN (very slow and hypnotisingly) Now – what were we learning about yesterday Ethel?

ETHEL (anxiously) I don't remember Victor

VICTOR (slowly and soothingly) Yes, you do Ethel – we were learning about – (pause) – femininity

The dummy waits for a second trying to digest the word ... then she hooks up the word as a child who does not understand.

ETHEL Fem-in-in-ity!

VICTOR (pleased) Good! NOW what does the word FEMININITY MEAN Ethel?

ETHEL (very fast through clacking teeth) A traitor? A sucker? A sap?

Loud manic dummy laughter from Ethel.

VICTOR (with slow suppressed irritation) No Ethel. Femininity means (he lingers savouring the phrase) a femme du monde (pause) = LADY OF CHARM ... and what does a lady of charm DO Ethel?

ETHEL (swiftly) Lie through her fucking teeth

Raucous laughter from the dummy.
VICTOR turns ETHEL over his knee and smacks her bottom ... then he sits her upright, recovers his composure and begins again

VICTOR Now you're a very naughty girl, Ethel

ETHEL (subdued) Sorry Victor!

VICTOR And you haven't learned your lesson Ethel.

ETHEL No Victor!

VICTOR Never mind, I'm going to take you to a cocktail party

ETHEL (thrilled) To a cocktail party!

VICTOR Right – now ... you go to this cocktail party

ETHEL (slowly) I'm going to this COCKTAIL PARTY

VICTOR Right – and you meet a man.

WOMAN (narrow-eyed) What kind of a man Victor?

MAN (firmly) Just a man

WOMAN OK OK don't be cross Victor

MAN Now – where was I?

WOMAN I was meeting this man

MAN Now Ethel listen carefully ... this man puts his wet greasy hand on your shoulder ... what do you do?

WOMAN (swiftly) Smack him in the kisser!

She roars with dummy laughter

MAN (very angry) No no no!

WOMAN (sheepishly) Sorry Victor. It just popped out

MAN Yes but why was it a wrong answer?

WOMAN (in dummy confusion) I don't know Victor

MAN (coaxing) You remember Ethel – because if you insult this nice man Ethel

WOMAN (parrot like) If I insult this man –

MAN (deliberately) He'll LOSE his CONFIDENCE

ETHEL (brainwashed) And I'll fracture his ego!

MAN (slowly) And he won't be able to go out in the world.

ETHEL And build a little house (with appalled realisation of what this implies) where he can put his wet greasy hand on me ANY TIME HE WISHES!

Love is a Four Letter Word

I'm strictly a female female
And my future I hope will be
In the home of a brave and free male
Who enjoys being a guy
Having a girl like me

SO if you flip when a fellow sends you flowers/drool over dreams made of lace/and talk on the telephone for hours/with a pound and a half of cream upon your face ... you can take it from So Sondheim & Bernstein ... you're a woman. But if flowers give you hay fever, you're terrified of [illegible], and you think lace [illegible] with the Big Bopper, then where does that leave you? Well, chances are you'll be regarded as a those girly 'progressive' women, a credit to your sex, and you'll find yourself thoroughly emancipated before you know where you are.

Female Emancipation gives women the right to produce (ie. equal job opportunity) and consume (ie. equal pay) just like men because the needs of an advanced economy do not demand and indeed cannot afford to draw any distinction between the sexes in regard to these two aspects of their lives. In the England of the Industrial Revolution, girls were given equal opportunity to go down the mines at 5 years old or to die in a mill at seven. In Post Revolutionary Russia female emancipation consisted of an equal right to carry [illegible] on the railway lines and free nurseries to park the kids while you did it. Then the problem for the economy was scarcity of productive resources, including labour: so women were emancipated into the mines, now the problem is scarcity of consumers, so women are emancipated into the supermarkets.

The main problem facing our highly developed [illegible] economy is the problem not of scarcity but of surfeit. In the middle of the Depression, Lord Robbins was defining economics as the study of human behaviour as a relation between ends and scarce means which have alternative uses [illegible] definition given to every [illegible] student [illegible] that what was being dealt with was a super-abundance of means which were being put to absolutely no use at all. Look at any standard economics text book and the glossary [illegible] the problem of plenty [illegible] the problem of surplus [illegible] of over-production [illegible] and you hardly see the word scarcity at all [illegible]. Anyone who can still talk about 'The German Post-War Economic MIRACLE' [illegible] Marx [illegible] Luxembourg [illegible] of Capitalism, [illegible] Maynard Keynes, that the real problem besetting capitalism is UNDER-consumption. The system needs increased consumption to maintain and generate increased production [illegible]. In addition, [illegible] technology [illegible] and better educated workers are needed – the White-collar Revolution – and any good capitalist can see that it's wasteful to [illegible] half your population without first checking whether they've got the commodities you require.

It is precisely at this moment, when the system needs consumption and women, that women are miraculously emancipated. Now they are lured out of their kitchens into the [illegible] and into the jobs where they can actually [illegible] a little instead of merely being it, and they are made to feel thoroughly inadequate and unfulfilled if they [illegible] wish to remain in their kitchens. We must learn to see 'Women to be admitted to the Stock Exchange' and 'First Woman High Court Judge Appointed' not as symptoms of women's advancement but as signals of defeat.

Why did it [illegible] so many otherwise subversive organisations, which long ago recognised the fallacy of the Work Ethic and have been busily advising men to [illegible] of their power & their positions, regard it as an advance in sign of the 'good times' [illegible] when [illegible] vacated places in the [illegible] were taken by a woman? Why is it that so many 'radical' men and women, when they come across giggles of girls politely enquiring 'Which Way to the Revolution?' [illegible] direct them to the Professional & Executive division of the nearest Labour Exchange. Newspapers, novels, plays, films [illegible] are all at it, persuading women to be free, desirable and independent by having [illegible] the jobs that you do (I'm a typist, a [illegible], a shop assistant) to the those jobs you go into (I'm in advertising, in journalism, in television). No one seems prepared to lay down for women the same pre-conditions of the good life that they lay down for men, of which 'freedom from the necessity to work' is surely a vital part.

Women have been emancipated to prevent them from being liberated. Competitiveness is the [illegible] on which the system thrives, it couldn't operate without it. Probably the basic premise of Capitalism, and of all historical [illegible] of civilisation, is that 'competition provides the best final product'. Looming behind both Adam Smith and Marx is a conflict model of a winners-and-losers economy and a winners and losers society. This conception sees to it that, on the whole, we are not even aware of it any more. We can't see it, we merely see other things through it. The spectacles. And simply because it is so basic and so largely unnoticed, this attitude can't be confined to just one aspect of a society. It informs every aspect of that society, including the male/female relationship. So while on the one hand men and women are being drawn together by their roles as producers and spenders, on the other hand they are being provided with a great competitive playground for 'sex war'. The whole range of human possibilities have been split down the middle, man being given a monopoly over one half and woman a monopoly over the other, and [illegible] the fight for Women's Liberation has consisted of a series of demarcation disputes, where to draw the jealously guarded boundary between male and female territories. [illegible] it should not be a woman's fight against men, or a woman's fight merely. If women are made to feel guilty, false or unreal if they trespass into the 'male' sector, the more guilty men are if they happen to [illegible] stray into the female sector. [illegible] are acceptable and expected qualities associated with growing old [illegible] the problem is all look so young, and the young all look so unfamiliar, and the [illegible] gets worse and worse [illegible] there are enlisted under the mandate of 'being a man' and while being a woman. All over the human race men and women are playing at being Man and Woman. If a real Man happens to like [illegible] sexual role [illegible] he [illegible] for the fact [illegible] himself, and even if a woman knows all there is to know about the internal combustion engine, she'll still flag down the nearest male to sight if her [illegible] breaks down on her. She's still [illegible] that long [illegible] with a whole world [illegible] while the [illegible] an Earls Court [illegible] writing [illegible] the man who got away. [illegible] feeling [illegible] and logical thought. And [illegible] a few fuck-ups like [illegible] and gay poodle-[illegible] that perhaps the [illegible] totally [illegible]. What the [illegible] It starts well before [illegible] knitting pink for a little girl, blue for a boy. And after that? Well [illegible] little girls don't fight, little [illegible] play with dolls, little girls don't [illegible]. And the problem certainly isn't solved by [illegible] by no her tomboyish little [illegible] and saying she'll grow out of it. Because, unlike emancipation,

liberation must be [illegible] do with an actual [illegible] while LETTING girls [illegible] trees, [illegible] fully accepting and [illegible] something [illegible] and [illegible] legitimate [illegible] part of her [illegible] nature that WANTED to climb trees. It is [illegible] allowing [illegible] all those characteristics [illegible] as well as those labelled 'feminine' when she chooses and expresses [illegible].

It makes no difference whether we [illegible] 'feminine' role, however that might be defined at the moment, in whether [illegible] towards, we compete successfully with men for 'their ground' and [illegible] their terms [illegible] conformity with the [illegible] and deliberate reaction against [illegible] a [illegible] that [illegible]. In either case, the result is partial and unfree, and [illegible] fulfilling we are asked to [illegible] a total life. Most people don't seriously accept this, not even aware of what is happening to them. Others [illegible] their detached [illegible] intelligence to work [illegible] the 'No Exit' signs [illegible] certain cyclical [illegible] that [illegible] as inevitable. The [illegible] Man, v Woman stereotypes, based largely on [illegible] biological [illegible], the [illegible] of [illegible] life possibilities for everyone everywhere [illegible] we are [illegible] relationship because we are in those relationships merely as role [illegible] by others [illegible], and [illegible] within their definitions [illegible] and only [illegible] by our own conceptions with [illegible].

Women's liberation won't [illegible] by equal pay and equal job-opportunity. It will not be achieved by [illegible] and competing with men for 'masculine territory'. It will be achieved only when the whole artifact of 'masculine' and 'feminine' territories has been [illegible] overthrown. Until this [illegible] has been dissolved, and it is acknowledged as natural and legitimate for both men and women to choose and to enact ANY of the human possibilities open to human beings, neither man nor woman will be free. The fight for woman's liberation IS the fight for men's liberation.

The male/female demarcation groups of society is [illegible] and altogether manageable. It is, [illegible], a woman not [illegible]. The 'masculine' man and the feminine woman are [illegible] of the wildest imagination [illegible] largely created by the media and the advertising [illegible]. The Myth Machine [illegible] stereotypes that [illegible] as [illegible] as [illegible]. What we lose in [illegible] an [illegible] of beauty.

Beauty is skin-deep, it was [illegible] British Way of Life. All men are little boys at heart and wear aftershave. A Woman is [illegible] thing [illegible] a Lumber-jacket and [illegible] with every [illegible] parts. Men love women who give them [illegible] and [illegible] Woman. Flash [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] difference between butter and Marg. If [illegible] were [illegible] women merely role in the [illegible] and the [illegible] hand that rocks the [illegible] candle. The objection [illegible] is being [illegible] sell products that [illegible] itself a product, shiny and glossy [illegible] recognisable by the shape and colour of its container. I know that no Man [illegible] it's dark and [illegible] Manners [illegible] when you feel it. I know that no Woman [illegible] small and curvy and [illegible] when you [illegible] it. Not [illegible] being used to sell Capitalism [illegible] Capitalism is being [illegible] to sell your [illegible]. Men and women are being transformed into [illegible] recognisable 'desirable' characteristics. Women [illegible] things [illegible] John Wayne [illegible] of a man. Men [illegible] women they get [illegible]. And if you don't [illegible] that's [illegible] that [illegible].

It is, all real, the worst [illegible] the WG-

[illegible] women, whose [illegible] to a [illegible] The [illegible] are still [illegible] firmly [illegible] Jenny (19 years [illegible]) [illegible] agency [illegible] Nigel (22) [illegible] way) [illegible] her [illegible] Castle in Spain. The [illegible] the woman [illegible] to be older, greater [illegible] 'advanced' [illegible] of problems [illegible] which they must adapt in [illegible] and still [illegible] female [illegible] the [illegible] of their [illegible] femininity in the [illegible].

And if the media [illegible] how [illegible] of your 'real' nature and needs, then there is always the psychiatrist to sort you out. Soon yourself. Say you don't like babies, be aggressive because there are things that need being energetically [illegible], [illegible] and you'll [illegible] be labelled lesbian and/or mentally ill. Very convenient. All your [illegible] is [illegible]. Your [illegible] because it [illegible] a criticism of anything [illegible]. Yes [illegible] I [illegible] sick, [illegible] I [illegible] to your role, [illegible] and [illegible] A Lunatic Asylum. There they'll cure you [illegible]. Yes I WAS [illegible], yes I WAS [illegible], yes I DO want a husband and a baby and a house, and yes, yes, yes I do think that my mummy/husband [illegible] protecting from people like me.

The Media/Advertising/Art/Experts are very successful in [illegible] the [illegible] which we [illegible] and [illegible], but, without the [illegible] in the process, the [illegible]. The [illegible] outside merely explains why we [illegible] it [illegible] way we [illegible].

We [illegible] the idea of the INDIVIDUAL human being, self-chosen and self-defined [illegible] than the merely animal. Of course it's more demanding [illegible] and accept the validity of [illegible] rather than merely to accept the [illegible] ready made, but we must do it if 'Freedom', 'Liberation', [illegible] to be anything other than words in a dictionary. [illegible] to create yourself from scratch. And [illegible]. This is what [illegible] liberation really means, and so [illegible] liberation is [illegible] inseparable from social revolution, not because [illegible] the same thing. [illegible] where [illegible] have an Oxfam [illegible] one page and [illegible] on the other, we are not free to enjoy [illegible] of society cannot be liberated until the [illegible] of the society is liberated. Freedom cannot be a partial thing, it is totality. You [illegible] is healthy because [illegible] only his liver that [illegible] you recognise that the whole man is dying. The [illegible] happen on the other side of the world [illegible] happen to YOU and, as individuals, women, like men, need to be liberated from the [illegible] and [illegible]. Women must liberate themselves into individuality, and individuals must liberate themselves from the barriers, material and spiritual, to the [illegible] of that individuality. Women/Men are liberated when Society is liberated, when Men/Women are liberated. Sure it's a [illegible], well, – there went the dialectic.

New York Report

AN END TO SEXISM?

Notes on the Women's Liberation Movement in New York

THE new Feminism in the US this year has continued along the two lines that have characterised it for the last three years. The 'liberal' feminists are represented by groups such as the National Organisation of Women which concerns itself with [illegible] broad and further issues such as equal pay, abortion law reform, discrimination in education, work and accommodation. The more radical feminists have gravitated to the growing number of 'Women's Liberation' groups, which generally encompass these issues, but which also have a radical critique of the institutions and attitudes that perpetuate any oppression of women. The following are some notes on developments in the WLM during 1968 and an outline of some of their plans for the next few months.

After a large conference of WL supporters in June, in New York, it was decided to re-instate the fortnightly 'city-wide' WLM meetings, which had existed throughout 1968. One of the main actions worked on this summer by this large group (though as they admit themselves not with such a degree of success as last year) was the disruption of the Miss America Pageant at Atlantic City a few weeks ago. Although many of the planned disruptions misfired because of the massive security precautions taken by the sponsors (obviously very shaken by last year's picketing and interruptions during the televised finals) WLM and the underground press in general, felt that the presence of a WL sympathiser amongst the finalists and the officials' ungracious treatment of her after they discovered she intended to denounce the pageant from the microphone, represented another important stage in the spreading of consciousness about this issue. As the report in RAT (the best underground radical paper in New York) ended: Women have proved that they won't be objects to be controlled by repressed men or manipulated into producing bigger profits for the fashion industry. One of the sponsors – Pepsi-Cola – withdrew last year after the demonstrations and now a national boycott has been launched by WLM against the two remaining sponsors – Toni and Oldsmobile – without whose support the pageant cannot continue. Also, WLM intend to infiltrate many more of their own people at the local level so that they will be assured of several WLM supporters in the finals.

The 'activist' groups in the New York area, mentioned earlier, have names such as WITCH (Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell), Red Stockings and The Feminists. All these three groups have been in existence for more than a year and each, with slightly differing emphases of Marxist analysis and extent to which they castigate men as individuals, all retain and work on the principle that their political commitment to the issue of WL should be manifested in serious revolution-orientated research, and above all, action.

The Black Panther women allow that they have to act as a vanguard group which can and does identify now with the problem of working-class Black women and families in American ghettoes, does, however, point up how the desperate need to get something done on a practical level while at the same time forging the overwhelming potential for revolution in the cities. One of the WLM groups allied with the city-wide meetings has now committed itself to researching into and taking action upon, the day-care facilities in the city (Nurseries which look after working mothers' children during the day are notoriously inadequate and badly run in New York) but the Panthers, in comparison, can point to a very successful 'breakfasts for children' program which they have been running for over a year in several cities across the country and which is soon to expand into other services and demands, as concrete results of this kind of political commitment. How far the systematic suppression of Panther leaders in the country will actually lessen their impact on the poor Black Americans it is hard to say, although the fact that most of those arrested are men will certainly mean that a larger proportion of women in the party than before will be very quickly gaining political consciousness and experience, and may be new developments around the issue of WL will occur soon.

To return to the white WL groups in the city – the mood now is largely of optimism and strength, with many on-going projects in hand. Out of the city-wide summer meetings developed the idea of forming various 'work-collectives', such as the day care project already mentioned, where women plan to take work in certain areas of jobs or corporations where women are most oppressed – low paid, de-boring, unmeaningful work.

A comprehensive list of articles and other material can be obtained from: Women, 3011 Guilford Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21218. The address of Women's Liberation in New York is: PO Box 748, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York, New York 10009

Generally WLM people feel that they have passed through the therapy stage of talking about their own oppression and problems, and now have self-confidence that their analyses and approaches are recognised as feasible mass movements both by the majority of non-involved women and by the movement as a whole.

Nina Hutchison.

It is not when a lady puts her make-up on that she feels different, it is when she takes it off" Coco Chanel is reputed to have said, embracing the mystique of women's faces, the mystique of women's make-up. Women slap creams, jellies and unmistakable concoctions on to their faces because without such protection they would possibly feel naked and vulnerable. While their husbands are in the bathroom with a razor, women sit at their mirrors fiddling with the face to put on which is going to be for that day

The Times Women's Features

The [illegible]

[illegible] struts arrogantly through [illegible] and upwards [illegible] grace of his body, those [illegible] eyes like tiny [illegible] destroying a [illegible] contact unless they were [illegible] first with a gentle touch

Micky Sythane

I thought there was no real sex left: never a woman who'd really come naturally with a man, except black women and somehow well we're white men, and they're a bit like mud.

D H Lawrence

The division of the one man into two sexes is part of the Fall: sexes are sections.

Norman O Brown

What is it men in women do require?
The lineaments of Gratified Desire.
What is it women in men require?
The lineaments of Gratified Desire.

Blake

Men are like animals — they seem free. Women are like plants, deeply rooted in one spot.

Hegel

SCUM OF THE EARTH

LIFE IN THIS SOCIETY BEING, AT BEST, AN utter bore and no aspect of society being at all relevant to women, there remains to civic-minded, responsible, thrill-seeking females only to overthrow the government, eliminate the money system, institute complete automation and destroy the male sex.

It is now technically possible to reproduce without the aid of males (or, for that matter, females) and to produce only females. We must begin immediately to do so. The male is a biological accident: the y (male) gene is an incomplete x (female) gene, that is, has an incomplete set of chromosomes. In other words, the male is an incomplete female, a walking abortion, aborted at the gene stage. To be male is to be deficient, emotionally limited; maleness is a deficiency disease and males are emotionally cripples.

Although completely physical, the male is unfit even for stud service. Even assuming mechanical proficiency, which few men have, he is, first of all, incapable of zestfully, lustfully tearing off a piece, but is instead eaten up with guilt, shame, fear and insecurity, feelings rooted in male nature, which the most enlightened training can only minimize; second, the physical feeling he attains is next to nothing; and third, he is not empathizing with his partner, but is obsessed with how he's doing, turning in an A performance, doing a good plumbing job. To call a man an animal is to flatter him; he's a machine, a walking dildo. It's often said that men use women. Use them for what? Surely not pleasure.

Eaten up with guilt, shame, fears and insecurities and obtaining, if he's lucky, a barely perceptible physical feeling, the male is, nonetheless, obsessed with screwing; he'll swim a river of snot, wade nostril-deep through a mile of vomit, if he thinks there'll be a friendly pussy awaiting him. He'll screw a woman he despises, any snaggle-toothed hag, and, furthermore, pay for the opportunity. Why? Relieving physical tension isn't the answer, as masturbation suffices for that. It's not ego satisfaction; that doesn't explain screwing corpses and babies.

[illegible] the male, who will have nothing to do but contemplate his precious self. Unable to relate or to love, the male must work. Females crave absorbing, emotionally satisfying, meaningful activity, but lacking the opportunity or ability for this, they prefer to idle and waste away their time in ways of their own choosing — sleeping, shopping, bowling, shooting pool, playing cards and other games, breeding, reading, walking around, daydreaming, eating, playing with themselves, popping pills, going to the movies, getting analyzed, travelling, raising dogs and cats, lolling on the beach, swimming, watching TV, listening to music, decorating their houses, gardening, sewing, nightclubbing, dancing, visiting, 'improving their minds' (taking courses) and absorbing 'culture' (lectures, plays, concerts, 'arty' movies). Therefore, many females would, even assuming complete economic equality between the sexes, prefer living with males or peddling their asses on the street, thus having most of their time for themselves, to spending many hours of their days doing boring, stultifying, non-creative work for somebody else, functioning as less than animals, as machines, or at best — if able to get a 'good' job — co-managing the shitpile. What will liberate women therefore from male control is the total elimination of the money-work system, not the attainment of economic equality with men within it.

A small handful of SCUM can take over the country within a year by systematically fucking up the system, selectively destroying property, and murder:

SCUM will become members of the unwork force, the fuck-up force; they will get jobs of various kinds and unwork. For example, SCUM salesgirls will not charge for merchandise; SCUM telephone operators will not charge for calls; SCUM office and factory workers, in addition to fucking up their work, will secretly destroy equipment. SCUM will unwork at a job until fired, then get a new job to unwork at.

SCUM will forcibly relieve bus drivers, cab drivers and subway token sellers of their jobs and run buses and cabs and dispense free tokens to the public.

SCUM will destroy all useless and harmful objects — cars, store windows, 'Great Art', etc.

Eventually SCUM will take over the airwaves — radio and TV networks — by forcibly relieving of all their jobs all radio and TV employees who would impede SCUM's entry into the broadcasting studios.

SCUM will couple-bust — barge into mixed (male-female) couples, wherever they are, and bust them up.

SCUM will kill all men who are not in the Men's Auxiliary of SCUM. Men in the Men's Auxiliary are those men who are working diligently to eliminate themselves.

The sick, irrational men, those who attempt to defend themselves against their disgustingness, when they see SCUM barrelling down on them, will cling in terror to Big Mama with her Big Bouncy Boobies, but Boobies won't protect them against SCUM; Big Mama will be clinging to Big Daddy, who will be in the corner shitting in his forceful, dynamic pants. Men who are rational, however, won't kick or struggle or raise a distressing fuss, but will just sit back, relax, enjoy the show and ride the waves to their demise.

ARTs LABs

DAMIAN was conceived with one of two guys — I don't know which — both of whom I'd broken with before I even knew I was pregnant. Having him was a decision I made voluntarily on my own and the final responsibility for him rests on me. No matter what sort of relationship I have with men now or in the future there is no ambiguity as to whose responsibility he is. Where I go he goes.

I find my main preoccupation in living with my kid is not being married or unmarried or whether he's got a father or not. When the child's there, whose sperm was half responsible for his existence is irrelevant. It's how he relates to people now. What concerns me is living with him in an alternative way to the usual family unit. The family now is smaller and more enclosed than it's ever been, the average being the two parents and two kids which doesn't offer the kid much in the way of different possibilities of behaviour and variety of human contact. At least before there were grandmothers and uncles and so on about to identify with. A kid needs to play people off against each other to work out what he thinks and wants if he's not going to swallow parental attitudes and values whole and if he's not going to be trapped in the conflicts of the two giants above him and forced into some sort of artificial identification with one of them against the other. A kid needs a whole framework of relationships to live in. How else will he avoid the usual banal and limiting distinctions between lovers and husbands, mothers and friends, who you touch and who you don't, in between which people belong to you and which don't? I don't pretend to have overcome all this. That would suppose a far greater fluidity in relationships than exists in the set up I'm in, but at least Damian has seen me, for example, relating to men in different ways — guys I've slept with from time to time, guys I've lived with for short periods and now someone who's there all the time. They're my friends & his friends and his relationship with them does not depend entirely on my relationship with them. I think this is fantastically important. Now I'm living with someone all the time it's particularly important that whatever happens between the two of us, Damian must be able to carry through his scene with him. If we split up I'd like Damian to be able to go and live with Pete sometimes when they both feel like it, so there's a continuity in his life with other people.

I suppose the ideal way to live all this out would be in a commune. The set up I'm living in is not group living in that way. Damian's experience of people is more like an extended family. We live in a big flat in the Grove. Damian shares a lot of things with a lot of people. There are a few people who've if not actually been living in the flat all the time, been around pretty consistently and certainly figure very largely in Damian's life to the point where it doesn't matter if I'm not there for hours sometimes days, or and I really noticed how much he trusts and loves other people when he came out of hospital after three months' serious illness when the only visitors he was allowed were Pete and me. I was afraid he would go on revolving around the two of us but he related back to all his close friends just like before.

A thing I wonder about sometimes is how much I should let Damian's attachment to people determine my relationship with them. The crunch comes when you start living with someone all the time as I have in the last year. Obviously Damian is going to be very dependent on someone he shares every day with. I think, though, it's impossible and anyway wrong to structure a relationship according to what you think the child needs. You can't make a contract with someone to stay together so many years. It's just as ridiculous as getting married. By the time (I'd better mention here Damian is only 2½) Damian's reactions to a bad situation seem to depend mostly on the reaction of the people closest to him. When he was dangerously sick his attitude to it was affected a hell of a lot by mine. I never [illegible] panicked and tried to live through it with him and explain things as he could grasp what was happening to him as far as possible without confusion. He's come out of it remarkably unfucked up. I've come to the conclusion that kids can get through suffering if they can express their feelings about it and live it out in an authentic way so the experience is at least real. Going to that hospital every day was a real lesson in how emotional repression works. Kids who were as miserable as hell and wanted to cry and communicate it were being persuaded they weren't really as miserable as all that, they were brave and cheerful children. Those kids were so screwed up acting out their ridiculous rules to get any response from the nurses they ended up not feeling what they really felt and never really working through it. If there are bad scenes like splitting up, if the child feels part of and understands what's going on the experience doesn't have to be damaging. I don't see it as possible or desirable to protect a child from that kind of suffering.

There aren't any rules about what a child needs to be happy — you don't have to have a permanent place or a permanent man and all the other things the welfare thinks will try to persuade you a kid needs. Damian has moved around a hell of a lot ever since he was born — he likes it. Having Damian has never prevented me from doing anything I really wanted to do. You're a lot more free once you get away from the routines children are supposed to need — Damian eats when he's hungry and sleeps when he's tired.

In some ways having a kid has made me feel much more independent. One thing is at least settled then — [illegible] project onto me the assumed female priorities of marriage and security and all the rest. And getting pregnant is no longer an unknown. I don't worry about what I'd do if I got pregnant by such and such a guy. I'd just get on with it independently of my scene with the guy if necessary — in fact I'd dig to have lots more kids. Sometimes I think it would be easier if all their fathers were as unidentifiable as Damian's. I am much more frightened of the commitment that might be expected of me and the kid to the father than of having a kid on my own. I feel as though Damian and I look out at the world as two individuals and not part of a possessive threesome all looking inwards at each other.

I do find having a kid some people put a big mother role on me. I completely reject that. I don't see why anyone shouldn't have a kid. Anyone can be a mother. I'd love to meet a man on the road with his kid. Ideally society should consist of autonomous individuals. People shouldn't have to belong to each other. But since things aren't like this, as the person who's been closest to him all his life, I'm happy to be responsible for him but I refuse to act out the bundle of attributes that make up the MOTHER.

It was very important to me to be independent all the time practically even if there's a guy around. It's terrible if the scene between you, the guy and child is complicated by not having any means of survival if the guy leaves. Any unmarried mother is eligible for Assistance and there are always other ways to make up a bit of bread. [illegible]

As an [illegible] to the authori[illegible] I first had Damian [illegible]

[illegible] NEVER [illegible]

ARBOUR SQUARE

ARBOUR SQUARE — the latest dwelling spot for the squatters, must be the place where Orwell was inspired to write 1984. The area stretching back from Commercial Road is a platform for blocks of flats interfering with the sky and their Coronation Street counterparts.

On 27th September the first three families moved in and at the moment there are 7 families there. Each with a separate flat. There are 15 children and 3 on the way. The police according to most people have been quite good — except last night when they attempted to kick down the doors. What did the Station Sergeant think of having the squatters next door? — 'Very pleasant I should think.' I told him that the squatters seemed to think they were O.K. his tone softened — 'As far as we are concerned it is a council problem. All we are doing is seeing that there is no breach of the peace.' This is probably the basic roots of the trouble of the Tower Hamlets Council. Everyone keeps dogmatically to their own little job. The problems of housing the homeless is sometime since long.

None of the Squatters had lived in a hostel or a half way house — all of them spoke vehemently against them. Mrs. Diane White before moving into Arbour Square had been walking Chamber Street at night and crashing in a bombed house. She was pregnant at the time. The Welfare Officers had found her and thrown her out — 'The people at Welfare don't want to know.' Each day Welfare Officers bang on the door to ask about the kids. So far they have been satisfactorily rejected. In the meantime the kids are necessarily being kept away from school.

The Town Clerk has stopped any fees for electricity being put in. 'Wasn't that good — they are getting their electricity free?' 'We don't want nothing free,' said one. They don't want to feel under any obligation to the electricity board or for that matter the Tower Hamlets Council — the Squatters have offered to pay £3 — £4 rent for each flat — twice what tenants are paying. Their offer was rejected. The flats have to be re-modelled, although they are in perfect living condition. Tony Mahoney main organiser of C.C.H.S. (Campaign to Close Hostels and Slums) and the guy who organised the Arbour Square Squat, reckons that about 8 million families in Britain are living in similar accommodation. The flats have 2 — 3 bedrooms, a lounge, kitchen and bathroom. There is no damp on the wallpaper, and white paint in most of them is absolutely intact.

Christine Shannon, 24 mother of 4 children says no-one was interested in me till I squatted. Christine is on National Assistance — and her kids spend their time screwing up the piece of paper pinned to the door of the house that the squatters are occupying. What do they think of Arbour Square. They love it here. They think it's a palace.

Carol Atcheson is another of the squatters. She is living in one of the flats with her small baby. Her husband has just been busted for stealing mail bags and has recently began his 18 month prison sentence. Mrs. Atcheson has scrubbed the whole flat out and delightedly showed me round.

At the moment the squatters are occupying about 40 houses in London.

On the 8th October the squatters have been summoned to appear in Court where an eviction Order is supposed to be served. Mahoney has resorted to the fact that the Writ has been improperly served — so an eviction can legally take place. The General Purposes Committee instructed the Town Clerk to settle the Squat on amicable terms — as Mahoney has been making himself increasingly scarce. The greasy handshake has lost its appeal. (Unless wines etc. no longer be shoved under the table.

C.C.H.S. aren't only fighting for the dispossessed but also against exploitation of landlords to their tenants. The standard of living in Britain is supposedly rising — in this part of London it seems that only the cost is. The Government are also jumping onto the bandwagon by evicting people from their present dwellings where they may pay £2 10s rent and moving them into modern blocks where the rents are £5 — £5 10s for a one-bedroomed flat. This is because of the current interest rate of 8½% the Govt. are paying on loans to build the blocks. Not only is the financial strain unbearable for people paying this amount, but also the fact that these people have been completely disorientated from their habitat. Tenants who have lived in the East End through all their lives (and remember it when it was a slum community, where everyone knew what everyone else was doing — and they liked it that way) are now being placed in impersonal blocks, where they are each assigned their own box. The East End is now a doss house for families in transit. The people must be either housed or re-housed, but somehow the Govt. must reflect the demands of their out-going expenditure and gear it to the basic needs of the people it's supposed to serve. 1000 family units are built by the Council each year. This is barely enough to rehouse the people living in slums — let alone to find accommodation for the newly dispossessed. Twice as many houses need to be built each year if the work is to become in any way effective. It's hard to believe that 1000 children are in care in Stepney at the moment.

There are numerous petty rules for people hoping to qualify for Welfare Accommodation that bely the nobility of our Welfare State, i.e. if you have been divorced twice you are not eligable for Welfare Accommodation. Unmarried Mothers also have inferior houses to anyone else.

Brick Lane is probably the heart of this wretched state of humanity. In 1932 it was condemned for the state of its slums. 37 years later — evolution has progressively worsened the slums.

Fascism is on the rise. Everyone knows it's there. The Great Synagogue has taken sad precautions, putting barbed wire on the gates and netting on the inside of the windows. Pending disaster. The inevitable 'I'm not colour-prejudiced but,' precedes a racialistic rhetoric. 'My eleven year old girl can't get a place in the local school because of them foreigners. My grandfather fought in the 1914 war and my Father and husband in the last war — for this country and what do we get for it?' Soon the 'I am not colour-prejudiced' will be discarded.

Tony Mahoney envisages within two years racism in on a comparatively equal scale to those going on in Chicago, and all over the U.S. at the present time. The fever blazes between the area surrounding Brick street, and the slum tenements of New York is somehow ironic.

So what's the alternative for families who don't want to squat? If they are fortunate enough to be on the housing list, they will probably take accommodation in a halfway house whilst waiting. Beachcroft House is one such place. It would fit nicely into a Charles Dickens book. The outside of the house is black with smoke from the surrounding factories. The stairs leading up to the flats are probably grey stone beneath the filth, sloshed over with disinfectant. Part of the walls have been covered in green-gloss paint — reminiscent of old school corridors.

On the second floor jammed into two small rooms are a family of 10. One and a half years have passed since they were originally offered temporary accommodation till they had a 4-bedroomed council flat (hopefully). Some families in Beachcroft have been in temporary accommodation for 3 years. For their £1 13s rent they have 1 double bed, one bunk bed, four hard chairs, and a table. No personal furniture is allowed on the premises — the reason they were given for this rule was because they got too comfortable and didn't want to move out. There is no hot water and washing has to be put on the roof to dry. Anything decent usually gets taken. Her husband, a lorry driver, earns £16 a week. £14 of this is spent on food, which includes 56 lbs of potatoes every three days. The mother of this family has just adopted the baby of an alcoholic friend — who is no longer able to take care of the child. Her children are subjected to fleas, impetigo, ring-worms and scabies. The playground is rat-infested and the whole house is beetle-ridden. 'We got thrown out when we were £35 in arrears. It was my fault I spend too much on food. It was my fault, not my husband's.' Most of the women there are in the game. This particular woman can't let her 11 year-old daughter out of the house without fear of her being assaulted. A woman living on the ground floor had 4 windows broken on three occasions when someone broke in to steal money from her electricity meter. Only after the third time did someone from the council come down to repair the windows. The £25 was then demanded from her — which was totally beyond her means. The woman was evicted.

This is the alternative to squatting. There are some gross miscalculations on behalf of the local council as to the immediate needs of its people. Tenants in Arbour House are being removed from really livable accommodation so that the flats can for some unknown reason be remodelled, and the temporary tenants of Beachcroft House are being processed fully into dehumanisation.

At the moment C.C.H.S. is operated solely on donations, which are pretty meagre. Mahoney reckons they need £1000 to get the operation going on a really effective nationwide scale — and not through the various levels of propaganda. The money would be used for publicity — pamphlets, posters etc. for the office. Keeping their Committee together, and for the National Teach In on Squatting in three weeks time which is going to 17 different universities to propagate the ideas of squatting. The Teach In includes a realistic film on squatting by Cinema Action, and an exhibition. At the moment they have very little bread for it. The Organisation needs to make connections with squatting groups all over the country and they need money to make this possible.

If anyone has anything to do with or knows of groups etc. who would be willing to pay for any of these necessary activities to help to get things together for C.C.H.S. Mahoney would be really glad to hear from you.

If you are a bit dubious about it, catch a tube to Aldgate East, walk along Brick Lane. Look at the houses, look at the streets, look at the people's faces. That's all. Tony's number is 247 5015

Angela Brooks

PIGS JUSTICE

The 8 defendants — including Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin are accused of conspiracy to riot etc. in connection with the Yippie protests in Chicago to coincide with the Chicago Democratic Convention. [illegible]

TODAY (Sept 26) in a Chicago Courtroom justice proved itself to be a mockery in the USA. Judge Julius J. Hoffman presiding over the trial of the 'Conspiracy 8' clearly showed that the USA in acts are now putting into practice the fact that a man is guilty until proven innocent contrary to American so called law that a man is innocent until proven guilty. Judge Hoffman from the commencement of the trial has made it quite clear that the defendants have no legal rights and he has been able to reduce the Defence Attorneys to the level of inadequate schoolchildren.

This was the third day of what will definitely prove to be one of the most historical trials in the history of the USA. The outcome will decide the future. It is plain from the action of the Courts so far what the outcome will be. Ironically if eight people's lives were not in the balance and the freedom of what is left of the freedom of the people of the USA was not at stake, one would be inclined to treat the trial so far as a comedy. Judge Hoffman has proved that he is not only a fascist dictator but a dithering fool who is too old to comprehend the words being spoken in court by anyone but himself. All motions by the Defence were thus overruled. All objections were overruled.

The position of Bobby Seale, Chairman of the Black Panther Party, is the most unfortunate and delicate of all the defendants. Regardless of the outcome of this conspiracy trial he is faced with a trumped up murder charge in Connecticut as soon as this trial is over. His Attorney Charles R Garry is in hospital at present undergoing surgery and various motions for a postponement on the grounds that Bobby Seale will not be represented by a lawyer of his choice have been denied.

This morning Bobby Seale was allowed to read the following statement in court —

'I, Bobby G Seale, submit the following in my hand writing to Judge Julius Hoffman of this court in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division of the USA, where presently the trial of so-called conspiracy to riot is being held, 26/9/69, and I, Bobby G Seale being one of the defendants of eight, have been, by denied motion, the right to speak out in my behalf where my constitutional right to have legal counsel of my choice was ineffective', namely Attorney Charles R Garry who is on record in this court as my defence counsel that I have made agreement with by my choice and that he will assist me in my defense during this trial.

I submit to Judge Julius Hoffman that the trial be postponed until a later date where I Bobby G Seale, can have the legal counsel of my choice who is effective', Attorney Charles R Garry and if my constitutional rights are not respected by this court then other lawyers on record here representing me except Charles R Garry do not speak for me or represent me as of this date, 26/9/69 I fire them now until Charles R Garry can be made available as Chief Counsel in this trial of so-called conspiracy to riot and in fact be my legal counsel of choice who is effective in assisting me in my defence. The only Defence Attorney I know who can defend me and be effective is Charles R Garry who is presently my Attorney on record in this court.

'If I am continuously denied this constitutional right of legal defence counsel of my choice who is effective by the Judge of this court then I can only see Judge Hoffman as a blatant racist of this US Court with gross prejudicial error toward all defendants and myself in particular'

Signed Bobby G Seale
Chairman, Black Panther Party

This motion was of course denied.

Previously Judge Hoffman had ordered the arrest of four Attorneys who were not present in court at the opening of the trial. Two of those Attorneys have since been jailed in Chicago. This has been unheard of in the history of the USA. The point here however is that these two Attorneys were dismissed by Bobby Seale. Today, as a result of a motion, the two Attorneys were brought into Court and their Attorney stated that they were agreeable to their dismissal. The Judge decided, however that with their dismissal the defendants were not properly represented and refused to acknowledge the fact that Charles R Garry was the only lawyer Bobby Seale would have to represent him. As no solution could be reached, this fascist Judge then decided that the lawyers would not be allowed bail but that they should return to jail until Monday morning Sept 29th and by then he hoped they would have reached an agreement with Bobby Seale and the rest of the lawyers. The gist of this is that they stay in jail or Bobby Seale retires them. This lunacy and tyrannical behaviour has been unheard of except in Nazi Germany. The other point is that one of the two arrested lawyers is the Defence Attorney for the New York 21 Panthers conspiracy trial. So the position is Chairman Bobby Seale has them and the NY 21 cannot or vice versa or they remain in jail and no one has them.

The eyes of the world should really focus in on this trial bearing in mind the McCarthy era and the Rosenbergs' trial and never for a moment forgetting Hitler and the Nazis.

Connie Matthews
Black Panther Sister

WHO'S CRAZY?

If you think you are going mad, don't worry about it. Everyone goes through phases like this, and it's a quite normal part of human experience. The feeling usually passes. It seems very likely that we are all mad, but that our madness only shows itself on certain occasions under severe stress. We all have a breaking point, and some of us are more fragile than others. Madness is after all a form of extreme unhappiness and who's happy? Whatever people tell you, madness (like sanity) is not a lasting thing. No one is permanently mad except in very rare cases where the brain is severely damaged through some form of physical injury. So when people especially those who know anything about madness try to convince you you are crazy they are only projecting onto you their own hang ups.

You may reach a stage in your life where you feel that you are hung up enough to go to hospital. It's important that you should understand what this means, and have some idea of the sort of experiences you are likely to have there. Well let's consider how you get into hospital in the first place. You can go in two ways — as a voluntary patient, that is where you ask to be admitted, or as an involuntary patient where you are sent by somebody else, that is certified.

1. INVOLUNTARY PATIENTS

i) Emergency admission. Under the Mental Health Act 1959 Sec 29 you can be referred by a mental welfare officer to a medical practitioner trained in psychiatry and admitted to hospital against your will if necessary for 72 hours. This happens where it is felt you are severely ill, and need treatment immediately. A mental welfare officer is a social worker (often ex-mental nurse; a psychiatrist is a doctor who specialises in diseases of the nervous system and brain).

ii) Observation period. You can be taken to hospital for observation for 28 days under Sec 25 of the Mental Health Act. The mental welfare officer can refer you and then get two psychiatrists to detain you for observation, if they consider you to be a danger to yourself or to others, and if they think you need treatment. It is also common for an emergency admission to be extended to a 28 day observation period.

iii) While under observation you can be detained further for treatment for not more than a year. You have a right to appeal to a Mental Health Review Tribunal staffed by two psychiatrists who are not on the hospital staff. It is not likely that in practice they will disagree with their colleagues diagnosis.

iv) You can be sent for treatment to hospital by a court under Sec 60 of the Mental Health Act, but you have to be pretty sick for this to happen. You will have been examined while on remand, and you have no alternative but to go to hospital which is probably better than the nick.

v) You can be sent to hospital for a period of not more than a year as a condition of your probation order and with your consent.

2. VOLUNTARY PATIENTS

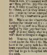
If you feel really screwed up so that you cannot go on, you can go to any hospital which treats mental illness and ask to be admitted. You just go to the out patients clinic. They may or may not admit you depending on how ill they think you are. You can also go to your GP and ask him to refer you to a psychiatrist. This will probably take a long time, but you may be lucky so it's worth a try.

INSIDE HOSPITAL

Psychiatrists will probably try to persuade you to go into hospital if they think you are sick and especially if they think you will try and kill yourself. If you have tried to top yourself, then it is quite likely you will be taken in anyway for observation, whether you like it or not. The cool thing to do is to go as a voluntary patient, so that you can discharge yourself. If your psychiatrist thinks you are in a bad way he will have you admitted under one of the sections mentioned above. He needs only to get the mental welfare officer to ask him, and that is a very easy thing for him to do. You ought to have some idea of what hospital is like, because the sort of treatment you get depends a great deal on how you behave, and where you live. In the provinces particularly in the industrial cities, you will not get the more advanced treatment that you are likely to get in the Greater London Area. When you go in you should not sign an agreement to submit to any form of treatment without the treatment being spelled out to you. Refuse electrical and surgical treatment. You have to do this very early otherwise they will just get a relative to sign. Make sure your next of kin supports you.

The sad thing is that by admitting yourself to an official institution like a mental hospital you have become labelled as insane — mentally ill, 'neurotic', 'psychotic' and so on. As a result of this the staff behave towards you as if you are mad. You have been officially defined as mad, and any behaviour of yours is open to suspicion. You will also find that you have lost your civil rights. You cannot get a solicitor to get you out, you can only protest to a tribunal which is likely to be prejudiced anyway. Any legitimate protest you feel you have will be ignored, because you are mad, and we know what's best, and all this trouble you are making just shows how disturbed you are. If you feel up you will be given a pill to bring you down. If you feel down you will be given a pill to bring you up, if you feel normal you will be told that you have no insight. You will not find yourself spending hours with a kindly old Viennese father figure discussing your troubles. In fact you will not see the psychiatrist much at all, perhaps 5 minutes a day if you are lucky. Your recovery and therefore your release will depend a lot on the nursing staff. The first week you are unlikely to be allowed your clothes. If you walk out, the police will bring you back, and you may find yourself detained under a different section of the Mental Health Act. Petty regulations abound. Lights are out at some hour like 10pm, and it doesn't matter if you are in the middle of watching a television programme. You're their baby and you can't make decisions about how much TV you can watch. If you protest the kindly facade of the staff quickly vanishes. If you refuse your medicine, you will be put into a side room on your own, and in some hospitals a padded cell, or the equivalent. If you insist on remaining depressed, you are likely to get ECT. This is a form of treatment where under sedation you have electric shocks passed through your brain and you wake up bemused and puzzled. In severe cases of depression and in some hospitals you may get brain surgery. Always refuse this. You are completely at the mercy of the psychiatrist and how he views mental illness. You may get group therapy, but this often means a form of brain washing to get you to conform to what the psychiatrist thinks to be the correct way of life. On the whole you will feel very unimportant, and you will be ignored. You will find it is a lot easier to get into hospital than to get out. Any statement you make about your life will be interpreted from the point of view of authority. If you hate your job, because it's a rotten job, or your life because it's a rotten life, you will be persuaded to adjust yourself to the situation. You will not be encouraged to ask why society allows this sort of situation to occur. You have failed the system — no one considers whether the system might have failed you. Psychiatry is staffed by the most conservative members of the professional middle class — doctors. In order to preserve their status in our society they have become secular moralists. They do not like hitch-hiking, not working, sleeping around and the taking of drugs not prescribed by them. They favour as a sign of stability a regular rather conventional job, with a steady relationship with a member of the opposite sex. They make statements about adjustment, responsibility and maturity. These are not signs of mental stability, but simply the moral judgements, disguised as medical diagnosis, you hear every day from magistrates, teachers, probation officers, policemen and others who see themselves as the grown ups of our society. They have become the moral guardians and priests of our day, and instead of hell our unhappiness and madness is held out as the punishment to anyone who opposes their values. The very rare libertarian psychiatrists are dismissed as cranks and sometimes schizophrenics.

So finally a few words of advice if you feel you are losing your mind. First of all try to get friends to care for you, providing that they are not contributing to the hang-ups. Take no notice of anyone who is not an expert who tells you you are going mad, and precious little notice of the experts. If you feel really desperate shop around and try to find a hospital with an outlook similar to yours. Go to a social worker you can trust, they are often caught in the same dilemma as you. They usually know the good hospitals and are usually sympathetic to the hang-ups. Try and seek out a good psychiatrist, there are a few sympathetic ones. If you go into hospital, go as a voluntary patient. Getting out is simply a matter of discharging yourself when you find hospital is hanging you up more than the outside world. Do this very early so that you won't be committed. If you are committed, you have to play their game. Act cool. Be either up or calm down as the case may be. Tell the nurse and psychiatrist quietly how much better you feel. Start looking in the papers for a job, or get the psychiatric social worker to find you one you can always leave it. Agree about how pointless or unstable your life has been. Finally always try to get into a day hospital that lets you go home at night, and try to get in as a voluntary patient. Twenty-four hours a day in mental hospital with the sort of staff they got there is enough to send anyone crazy


FUNNY THE PRINT IS SWIMMING BEFORE MY EYES — I WONDER WHY THEY'RE KEEPING ME HERE SO LONG — WHY ALL THESE TESTS?

ALTERNATIVES TO MENTAL ILLNESS

BIT has been running for 18 months now and in that time [illegible] type that some very strange questions have arisen. Perhaps it's a strange concern around what to do when you are freaking after all, if you are freaking, presumably you don't know what the question is.

What do you do?

Talk to (a) parents — unlikely it freaks them.
(b) friends — likely but it freaks them
(c) strangers, employers — no change

There must be something you can talk to somebody about but you can't freak them.

Sleep out, interest, rage, smoke dope, act, try some speed, cut out, work out with some shit etc etc. Somehow the more you act it, the better you have to, the more you freak the more you have to [illegible].

Forget it all, go back home, get a job, still nowhere. Burnt out, freak the fuzz, go to Morocco, Istanbul, you name it. Sooner or later the end of the road. Freaking doesn't work either. Something must be wrong if even all these works.

So the friendly neighbourhood GP (Granny Pusher)

Q I'm freaking
A Are you on my list?
Q How do I get on the list?
A What are your symptoms
A My symptoms. I'm just freaking.
A You have no symptoms, I can't have you on my list, people on my list have to be sick not malingerers.
Q What can I do to be genuinely sick.
A Well, genuinely sick people have something wrong with them like coughs. Throw up, bad breath, temperature rashes, pissing too much or shitting too little.
Q If I do that will I be genuinely sick?
A Well I'll have to check you aren't putting it on.
Q How will you decide I'm putting it on?
A Doctors know things like that.

So you leave in despair, start throwing up and coughing, go back to the doctor.

Q I'm throwing up and coughing.
A Ah, it's nervous type, very suggestible. There's nothing wrong with you, just nerves.
Q What do I do
A Take these pills
Q What are they for
A They are for what's wrong with you.
Q What is wrong with me?
A That is the trouble with you young people, always asking for getting something for what's wrong with you. Don't you know doctors have no time. If you don't stop asking these crazy questions I'll send you to a psychiatrist.
A Please can I see a psychiatrist
A I don't approve of them. You only think you need a psychiatrist, there aren't enough psychiatrists to see you people who are not really sick, they have enough to do seeing mental patients. Do you want me to think you are a patient?

You go home, take pills, throw up, choke, can't wake up, eat less, can't fuck, lose interest, lose friends, lose patience, go back to the doctor.

Q I took the pills.
A Fine, that's a good patient.
Q I feel worse.
A (thinks and frowns) Tell me your symptoms.
Q I can't wake up, no appetite, no energy, can't sleep
A Take these
Q It feels like speed.
A You young people know too much. They will help your depression.
Q But I've just come off speed.
A Ah, a junkie, I don't want one of those, I'll give you one last chance.
Q What
A Some anti-depressants and sedatives.
Q What
A You are depressed, probably all these drugs.

Go home, swallow all the pills, wake up on nothing (Mental Health Act, 1959) in [illegible] (mental hospital)

Q What am I doing here?
A Where were you born?
Q What's going on?
A Have you ever had TB?
Q What's going on?
A You are confused and depressed.
Q As long as I know you
A Take your pills, the people here know what's best for you.
Q How well do they know what I'm freaking about?
A That hippy talk will get you nowhere. We know what's wrong with you.
Q How well do you know?
A We are trained to know these sort of things.

After six weeks of scheduled pills, making crafty trots, one picture frames, fourteen games of bingo, eighteen walks, twice around the grounds, two patient's dances, four fights with Charge nurse about hair time, three fights about not waiting in line for pills, meals. Four complaints about not waiting to see doctor on his rounds, you are now back at square one. Obviously one minute a reversal to therapeutic wonderland. You've somehow missed the point. There was a game with rules and you failed to qualify. In fact the game was irrelevant to what was being experienced. What was so freaky and what had now become an issue. There was no reason why a service with such a vast pyramid structure should decide from its mountain on a course as far as to consider anything as relevant to an individual. At this point let us rest. They have been done better by Goffman, Laing, Cooper etc. The real issue is they need not be blamed, they are only doing their job, bless them.

The existence of mental hospitals is the most terrifying indictment of mutual irresponsibility the world has ever known. The reason for Auschwitz was that nobody wanted to know. The irrelevance of the mental hospital is only the final realisation of a process of disrelating each other and making each other irrelevant.

Coming into the personal worlds of people finding out, cannot work by any superstitious mass technique of allegiance in language or need to justify their results to anyone (for without pretence whose would there be expectation to justify), BIT has to give a kind of immediate directly into the experience of a number of freaks and has often been blind to the issues which don't arise [illegible] unsophisticated minds.

It is long while for the individual to survive the onslaught without sacrificing his individuality unless somehow his space and time are to safe guarded. This is a situation in which BIT finds itself caught up, simply as the result of listening. BIT is at this moment on the threshold between falling back into having been just another happening or rising up to the situation. Quite simply if an individual experience requires a space and time framework sensitive to his individual experience of it, this is not going to happen if that framework is going to be primarily sensitive to the needs of those providing it. The result is not only bewildering to the individual who falls back on the usual unsophisticated kind of yawning in others. It is irrelevant.

BIT finds itself increasingly called upon by individuals in flight from irrelevance. But I waste time knocking the establishment. We could go to take care of all the poor souls who can't manage with what it has for them. Don't knock it for not being available to individuals

But it is to have private lives in public places than to have public lives in private places.

This shift now rapidly evolving to provide the kind of space time framework in which the individual is not absorbed and where the individual is not on equilibrium. BIT has arrived at the moment of crisis, to grasp the situation which presents itself to make history about to happen. BIT urgently needs space. That means either a gift in lieu of a house or the bread to purchase it. BIT urgently needs time. That means a few people cool enough to ride out the uncoolness that freaking may engender in all parties. Help in the usual sense we do not need. It is a big job to tackle that space and [illegible] customary procedure to fill it. You don't need to play the shit game to confront the issue of what is happening today you do need a place. If these places do not develop, the whole brotherhood game will continue. If they do, it will wither and die. Being mentally ill is a lie to a conscience of lies. Telling the truth is very difficult. Finding a place for it is essential.

Peter Polish BIT (229-8319)

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[illegible]

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HIGH WYCOMBE [illegible]

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HENLEY [illegible]

ALDERMASTON [illegible]

NOTTINGHAM [illegible]

LIVERPOOL [illegible]

[illegible]

SATURDAY OCT 11

[illegible]

SUNDAY OCT 12

[illegible]

MONDAY OCT 13

[illegible]

TUESDAY OCT 14

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY OCT 15

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THURSDAY OCT 16

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FRIDAY OCT 17

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SATURDAY OCT 18

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MONDAY OCT 20

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TUESDAY OCT 21

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WEDNESDAY OCT 22

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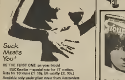

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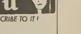

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE UNDERGROUND FROM THE LONDON STREET COMMUNE

AT the moment there are over a hundred and four kids in nick as a result of the busts at 144 Piccadilly & Endell Street. The only condition on which they are being bailed is if they agree to live at home — ie if they are prepared to exchange one prison for another. The cases are being remanded again and again, and it will be a matter of months before they come up.

It is clear that the authorities are trying to smash the Commune by these delaying tactics which have the pretence of legality. We are working with [illegible] and People's Justice to make sure this doesn't happen. There are still four-hundred kids around Piccadilly and dossing out in Green Park, and if they are not all going to be busted or driven back into dead end jobs something must be done quickly. It has become a total war between the underground and straight society and the choice is still whether to give in and go away to a desert island or to dig in and create a guerilla action base in London.

The first of these options amounts to a refusal of the struggle which actually exists between the system and all those who reject it, at different social levels. The second one means throwing away all the ideological garbage that has been imported into this country by a succession of psychedelic crusaders, media-freaks and guru hustlers. Up till now the function of the so-called underground has not been to accelerate the growth of dissent among kids, which would involve finding out what its different forms have in common, but rather to obscure any real perception of these concrete problems of communication and integrate it in a mystifying haze of fashion and American hip[illegible]:

If the Underground really intends to go underground and become an active resistance movement, it must try to discover its real roots in the specific conditions of the English social structure. It must expose the process of pacification which holds the whole thing together: repressive doctrines of treatment, care and protection, rehabilitation and even love — and don't think that the 'pacifiers' are all bureaucrats. A lot of them are sincere, well meaning liberals — like ex-CND politicians who, as social workers, probation officers, teachers, etc are quite unconscious of how repressive their role really is — and this kind of pacification has been carried over into the underground with the so-called Flower Children and their ideology of love. This seems to be based on sheer confusion and fear, involving as it does a total non recognition of the otherness of the other person. Is violence

But any attempt to explode this con, to express what is really going on, is itself put down as 'violent' and then crushed with all the real violence of the legal and the therapeutic process. The only force at present capable of hitting back are the kids who are trying to fight their way out of their parents' culture, whether this is working or middle class. We are involved in a life and death struggle for the independence of our minds and bodies. At the moment kids are split up into different subcultural groups which have been driven by the system into a permanent state of aggro with each other which effectively prevents them joining forces. For instance, one of the reasons 144 was bust so soon was that a situation developed between the angels who were inside, and a group of skinheads outside, who had originally come down to support us too. Both sides initially found themselves up against the fuzz who first attempted to separate them and then joined the skinheads. This provided a convenient pretext for the fuzz to move into the building to prevent a breach of the peace occurring outside.

One way the system operates is by convincing the people caught up in it that it just has to be and this is only possible because the system itself is out of control. Underground ideology, which pretends the system is an illusion is just playing the system's game — reinforcing by inversion the illusions behind and through which the system works.

If it is to stop playing this sort of game the underground must begin by dissolving the ideological split between its political and cultural factions. There's no point in changing everything, magically, in imagination while the system goes on fucking people up as before, any more than in mobilising people around abstract issues like Vietnam which have nothing to do with what they are really feeling in their guts. Only a couple of weeks before we occupied 144 Piccadilly two demos passed by outside, going in opposite directions, one to Ulster House, the other to the BBC in support of free radio. Afterwards a lot of kids who had been at the two demos got back at the dilly, everyone equally pissed off with their respective scenes and feeling that neither had anything to do with their immediate situation in the city. It was this group which, the same night, decided quite spontaneously to combine and take over the hostel in Broad Court, so that IN PRACTICE the commune was formed out of the fusion/dissolution of the political and cultural camps and this process must now be extended to the whole of the scene. For instance the drugs scene — what was introduced as a means of purely subjective (and non-violent) liberation has been turned by straight society into its opposite, an objective and often violent means of oppressing subjectivity. Drugs have become just another weapon in the armoury of the authorities which they are using selectively against groups, like the beatniks/skinheads, which they previously attacked by [illegible] or [illegible]. The Drug scene therefore operates within a specific social and historical context and is determined by it, even though (or perhaps just because) it is an attempt to deny or transcend that kind of reality. What began as a movement of revolution against politics has ended up by transforming politics into a concrete issue of every-day life for a lot of kids. On this level the Commune can be seen as the first tentative re-grouping of [illegible] out militants and politicised heads in this country (although this has been happening in America for some time).

* * * * * * * *

Communes but why STREET Commune? The main reason why we claim the [illegible] capitalist streets is that they are the only possible space from which the reorganisation of the Underground could take place. Practically, people only change their mode of consciousness when their material conditions of existence are changed. Once you drop out onto the street, it's a dossing scene; you have to stop [illegible] ideology and get yourself together just in order to survive. The street or the supermarket belongs either to you or to the fuzz, and when there's no way out or back the only thing to do is fight — your advantage is that you've got nothing to lose. Our project is that the Underground should dissolve itself into a street-level mobilisation/federation of all the sub-cultural groups — greasers, skinheads, beats, heads, student drop-outs. But the process doesn't stop there. In the last analysis, both Broad Court and 144 were extensions of the street; we've got to get to the situation where the buildings we occupy become real anti-institutions, serving to transform specific areas into decontrolled zones, a focus of interaction for the local groups formed in the streets but separated by them. The streets remain our recruiting ground and a battle-ground against the fuzz in so far as their role is to preserve the streets as lines of communication between privatised spaces, between the two sets of institutions which combine to keep kids off the streets: (1) the family and the school & (2) the whole network of detention centres, approved schools, hospitals, and psychiatric units which are there to tame and contain the kids who are wild enough to break away from home.

Control of the street is a community function: we have to develop ways of taking control of them away from the fuzz and back into the community to the point where they no longer operate as a convenient Identification Parade for the fuzz but have an autonomous function as a real escape route for kids on the run and as a means of building up a reserve army of self-[illegible] workers.

* * * * * * * *

Two things stand out from the experience of the last few weeks:

(A) Occupying any building is ineffective if a few kids inside are driven from the community. The space around Broad Court and 144 were not, on the whole, accepted or supported by the community. What we were trying to substitute ourselves for the community and it's no wonder it was a walk over for the fuzz to [illegible] complaints against us, and once we were [illegible] fuzz to move in and [illegible] us. The Commune must aim to provide the task force for [illegible] but only where they have a definite function in helping kids in a given community to defend their space — streets as well as buildings — in order to liberate them from State control.

(B) It is impossible for a Commune to succeed in setting up operational bases at the [illegible]. There are two separate stages. We need places relatively free from external pressure where kids who have been inside such as [illegible] can thrash these out and begin to achieve the [illegible] where the accumulated aggro between different cultural groups can be worked through at an inter-personal level. At a second stage we can then move into unified tactical action against the system on a number of fronts.

* * * * * * * *

If anyone is willing to put themselves on the line with us on the basis of what we have said here — please contact us at 845 3614 or through IT. If you can't [illegible] we'd really like to meet you. If you're a freak [illegible] the sex you want

AN ENGLISMANS HOME

photo: Dez [illegible]

THURSDAY EVENING

Entered the building. Few people outside, hardly any fuzz. Public were taking a genuine interest and many of the squatters engaged in lengthy conversations with them. Inside, the atmosphere was one of defiance, but a lot of people were tidying up and busying themselves. Food was more plentiful then than at any time afterwards — I was given apples, oranges, carrots, cigarettes and sandwiches all in a couple of hours. Many people were upstairs in the 'cinema', a large meeting hall where most of the activities originated. The balcony was crowded, and looked in danger of collapsing. The only weapons visible were the numerous plastic balls. I would at a rough guess, I would say there were about 2000 readily packed and hundreds scattered around.

After speaking to a few people, I realised that about ¼ of the people there had only come to see what was going on and had no intention of staying more than a night or so.

In the evening there was a meeting in the cinema which yielded few positive results. The Ground Floor at night was a truly wondrous scene as everybody not sleeping wandered around looking lost, although it was still comparatively peaceful at that time.

About 2.30 in the morning we heard some shouting in the garden — ? Italians had tried to break in and were engaged in a plastic ball throwing war with people on the roof. We joined in (the room I was in belonged to a Scotch girl and a few of her friends who had been getting it given upstairs). The battle continued until some of the Angels who had been incredibly quiet the rest of the evening, went down and sorted them out. Later on there was a lot of activity by the front door and someone said fire [illegible] was being prepared. I missed out on this, but the newspapers didn't the next day.

There were a few record players in the building and most of the rooms were well kept. One room in the basement had a fireguard at the door with a notice saying 'Please do not remove because of Kathy' and inside people had made beds in the cupboards which fitted nicely and a kitten was asleep on the floor.

Not such a pastoral scene in some of the other rooms though — most doors on the 4th & 5th floors had 'Keep out' and 'Fuck off' written on them and one on the 3rd floor was adorned with a notice reading 'No hash smoking here' and [illegible].

By FRIDAY the mood had turned to one of complete paranoia and mistrust. Fewer people were entering and leaving the building, and the [illegible] of the so-called 'leaders' (and Dr John among them), the Security force was such that a special meeting dealing only with security was held in the cinema.

The meeting was a complete shambles, heads at the front who were trying to start everyone talking were only making themselves inaudible and to add to the noise of confusion an Arts Lab camera team were trying to film the scene.

Some points were raised before everyone walked out in disgust and a special security force of [illegible] was set up. These people wore white armbands and were mostly Angels. Some of them were spoiling for a fight and wanted to do the press more than anybody. Press were generally unpopular, particularly photographers — who incidentally deserved any trouble they got for being such a fucking nuisance and getting in the way so much. Also set up at the meeting was a 10-man Co-Ordinating Committee (and don't let me believe it or not) and Beano got in amongst the 'leaders' for the first time. For a 'leader' Dr John, or Phil as everybody knows him, was a very quiet guy but he's about the only person that held things together. The Co-ordinating Committee had a room at the back of the ground floor and after going home to get a typewriter I went into the room where 2 students were busy breaking the windows with a knife because their chairs had split. Then some Irish guys came in and told us what cunts we were for taking over their room and that they would be coming to 'see us all' later. Inside the room not very much co-ordinating was being done. Drugs were being passed around and only a few of those in the room declined the offer. Dennis started typing the newsletter on my typewriter and everybody else seemed at a loss for something to do so they wandered around the building a few times.

One plainclothes came in posing as a reporter from City University newspaper and asked us all a few irrelevant questions — mostly about drugs — and wandered upstairs. About an hour later a tremendous racket came from upstairs when the Angels discovered that he was fuzz and punched him around a bit. I went up to see what was going on and somebody said they had seen him talking to me. Immediately the leader of Security came up and asked me a dozen questions, but a few of the Committee cleared me and I felt quite relieved at the prospect of not getting smashed by the Angels and chucked into the street at 4 o'clock in the morning like the plain clothes fuzz was.

GENERAL NOTES ABOUT THE PLACE

BOGS were clear up to Saturday — one had a towel, the other had soap and hot water and all the pans flushed until the Angels took the chains as weapons.

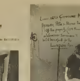
FOOD Thursday — good. Friday — not much about. Kitchen closed but gave out bread and water all night.

LIFT was working but didn't look very trustworthy.

ILLNESS One or 2 guys carried out, one had fallen through the roof — the other had a bad trip. Also on Friday one chick was giving herself a fix of H when her 'boyfriend' came up and slapped her and pulled out the needle. He was badly beaten up and thrown out. This was one of the worse incidents because a lot of those who threw him out hadn't seen what happened and just wanted someone to kick.

POLITICS were hardly discussed even at the meetings.

Dave Williams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LONDON [illegible]

SQUATTING AND COMMUNE-ING

For nearly a year now the Squatter movement has been growing and gaining momentum, although it would be correct to say that this speed has been somewhat slower than those of us who started it hoped.

The aims of the Squatters Campaign are quite simple. There is the largely humanitarian aim of using direct action methods to rehouse people from slums and hostels, as all political parties and governments have failed even to attempt this seriously. The second aim of the Campaign was to show by example that these methods work, and hope that this would trigger off a mass Squatting movement, as in 1946 when homeless families in their thousands occupied empty houses, and, owing to their numbers, were extremely successful.

It is certainly true that the word, and idea of, squatting has now become part of people's vocabulary again. It is also true that the Campaign has been successful in the areas that it has concentrated on. Families in Redbridge, Lewisham, Southwark, Notting Hill, Reading, Brighton, Edinburgh and numerous other places have benefitted by direct action. Equally important, hired thugs, euphemistically called bailiffs, under the leadership of Barrie Quartermain, employed by the Redbridge Council, were defeated and exposed. This was probably the first time that bailiffs have failed in their eviction attempts: the tremendous effect this has had on large numbers of people, including G.L.C. rent rebels is undoubted. It is also true that more and more families were becoming willing to squat, and that many organisations, while not actually squatting, have certainly adopted a more radical attitude because of the initiatives of the squatters.

All these things mean that the effort has certainly been worthwhile. On the other hand I would be being less than honest if I tried to suggest that the wider hopes and aims of the Campaign have been achieved. The Squatters' actions have not sparked off a move by hundreds and thousands of homeless families and slum dwellers. Squatting has not (yet?) caught on as it did after the 2nd World War. I am not saying that this could not happen even now and I certainly believe that squatting is a very useful form of direct action for activists and homeless families to involve themselves in.

During the past month or so however the public image of the word 'squatter' has changed considerably mainly because of the activities of the London Street Commune, and extreme press and public hostility has allowed the authorities to set 'legal' precedents that are, to say the least, of dubious legality. Just how much harm, if any, the occupations of buildings in Central London by the Commune, have done to the Squatters Campaign will not be ascertained clearly for a while yet. So here I can only make guesses and pose the problems it has raised.

One thing can, however, be said with certainty. The London Street Commune has received just about the worst press any protest group has ever received. I spent 4 days in the Endell Street School and can assure readers that they should believe about 5% of what was written about that place. The public hysteria and antagonism generated by this was quite frightening. Members of the Street Commune became something less than human. Seeing this one can I think understand, to some extent, for the first time how a black man must feel in a white racialist belt of the Southern States. Police, courts, press could do just what they liked to the Communards and however unjust or arbitrary, the public would call for more. It was, as I have said, frightening to witness.

In a situation like this one has, I think, got to support the young people of the Street Commune. Gypsies have been suffering for years with bad publicity — whose turn next? Squatters? Blacks? Anarchists? Socialists? Liberals?

However from the viewpoint of the Squatters Campaign it must be said that if the public now associate the word Squatting solely with the activities of the Commune, then this is a pity and could be harmful to the Squatting Campaign. It is certainly true that there has been local and Squatter hysteria: on the other hand I have heard the most hysterical outburst concluded with the words 'now if it were families, I would agree with it.' I think therefore that those members of the Squatters Campaign who have said that the activities of the Street Commune have irreparably harmed the Squatters are jumping the gun. It may be so, or alternatively it may mean that the public may have to face up to their 'If it was families I'd support you' statement, and indeed do just that. We do not know yet and will have to wait and see — and

on all we can to ensure local opinion swings the right way and also to convince people the members of the London Street Commune are human beings. The point I am trying to make is, I repeat, that it is wrong of those people in the Squatters to state that the recent events have wrecked the Squatting Campaign.

The public hysteria has enabled the authorities to evolve 'legal' precedents which are of dubious legality and are certainly unprecedented in English law and completely contrary to natural justice. Who ever heard of blanket possession orders against unnamed defendants before? And then being denied a right of appeal against this? It is definitely true that this has created problems for the Squatters, and perhaps the Communards can be criticised for making serious tactical mistakes (we all make these, and at least the Communards or some of them are learning from them, which is all anyone can do), but to jump from saying this to saying that the Communards are to blame for the dangerous actions of the authorities, as some people have done, is rather like Enoch Powell blaming the housing shortage on coloured immigrants. This is of extreme importance — as it is the basis of racialism, nationalism and all other feelings that divide ordinary people: the blaming of our sufferings on fellow sufferers, rather than on those who are really to blame — the authorities — [illegible] the hands of the enemy that causes us all to suffer — the society we live in and those who run it.

It is essential then that we see this and together act to defend our civil liberties and attack the ruling class that is increasingly encroaching on them.

This is not to say that I do not have many political differences with the London Street Commune. Revolutionary as their activities may (appear to) be and revolutionary as many of their thoughts undoubtedly are (and I am told that the Commune's spokesmen are now specifically rejecting the idea of dropping out of society in favour of changing it) I do not feel that their methods will bring about a different kind of society.

Let me elaborate on that statement. I have no blueprint for a future society, but I think it can be said that if it is to be radically and basically different from present society then it must be based upon the actuality of the vast majority of ordinary people individually and collectively running their own lives, rather than having them run for them. It is the absence of this that makes Russian State Capitalism basically no different from Western Society. Control of society by ordinary people will only come about when these people are confident and conscious enough to wrest control from the present rulers, and by definition cannot be brought about by a group.

Just as a speaker has to take his audience as he finds them, so a revolutionary has to accept people as he finds them, not as he might like them to be. I am no Marxist, but Marx's statement that the values of any society are the values of its ruling class is certainly true. In present society people are taught to believe that leaders, bosses, rulers, managers, wars, policemen are necessary. After all everybody knows it's common sense we must have authority. These values to a greater or lesser extent exist in us all, even revolutionaries, for no man is an island.

However the humanity inside people is never quite destroyed. All people at some time reject these values and hit back, in their own small way. It may be by the formation of a shop stewards committee or tenants association, or anti-war movement. Or it may just be in an individual way. Somewhere, sometime in their lives they do an activity which IMPLICITLY AND EMBRYONICALLY says to the authorities 'No! you are not going to run things your way — we're doing it our way.' If it is accepted that a different kind of society is where ordinary people act just as they like in consistently small ways, but saying 'I' explicitly and taking control completely, then the way to achieve this is work among ordinary people and help to increase their self activity, their struggle for control in little ways, their rejection of the authorities' right to rule.

This is constructive work for revolutionaries, and what I believe the Squatters are doing. The actions of the London Street Commune did not do this — they brought out people's acceptance and support of authority. I suppose what I am saying is that in an authoritarian society every man is a social schizophrenic with both authoritarian and libertarian tendencies. It is the job of the libertarian to do anything which increases the latter.

Ron Bailey

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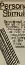

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October 11 (Thurs) at 10.30	[illegible] FEATURE
October 17 (Fri) at 10.30 October 18 (Sat)	HOW I WON THE WAR PLUS SHORT FILMS & LIVE MUSIC
October 15 (Sun) at 10.30	LES ENFANTS TERRIBLE (Cocteau) PLUS THE HIDDEN FORTRESS (Kurosawa)
October 23 (Thurs) at 10.30	THE EXTERMINATING ANGEL + SURPRISE FEATURE
October 24 (Fri) at 10.30 October 25 (Sat)	THE QUEEN + SHORT FILMS + LIVE MUSIC PLUS BLOCKHEADS (Laurel & Hardy)
October 30 (Thurs) at 10.30	OCTOBER by Eisenstein

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and I STILL BUTTONS PINK PAPER
I DON'T KNOW THINGS WERE THAT DESPERATE ON THE HOME FRONT
HOW ABOUT GIVING YOUR HAND A REST WHILE I TRY?

Dear IT

It's [illegible] ('[illegible]') [illegible] who's showing the malice [illegible] superiority about the British Left and Ireland [illegible] perhaps [illegible] simply the [illegible] of our ignorance which the underground usually borrows from socialists in this country. It may not have penetrated the charmed circle of metropolitan hippydom yet but the Irish Question is certainly back in British Working Class politics and back to stay.

Over the last 18 months the developments within the Civil Rights Campaign have been reported in detail in 'Solidarity', 'The Newsletter', 'Black Dwarf' and especially 'Socialist Worker' the fortnightly paper put out by International Socialism which has carried almost weekly reports. Branches of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign now exist in all the Irish working class areas of London [illegible] and in Birmingham, Glasgow, Oxford and elsewhere there are either branches or independent Civil Rights groups. The [illegible] movement in Britain [illegible] the [illegible] (Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign) or the [illegible] Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association [illegible] depending on its locality. Since [illegible] many [illegible] marches have been held to the Ulster Office (at least 15). [illegible] after the Derry [illegible] went from Shepherds Bush Green to [illegible] the office. The Islington [illegible] is putting up a civil rights candidate in N. Islington to challenge both Labour and Tory with a programme which includes support for the East End [illegible] and London Squatters, opposition to anti-TU laws whether Labour or Tory, and is making a special appeal to black workers [illegible]. A great deal of cash has been sent to the North and more helpful material [illegible], leaflets, printing equipment [illegible]. A good many British [illegible] have been in Ireland (including [illegible]) and most of them have been well received by the Irish [illegible] in Derry [illegible] were vital.

This is only a start and it is scarcely enough to meet the urgency — and the [illegible] — of the situation in the North. Nothing less will be enough to blow up the [illegible] regime [illegible] the Republicans [illegible] politics [illegible]. But it IS a start.

What is needed from IT is more material like your report from Belfast (the point that it was [illegible] on politics and long on [illegible]), but [illegible].

Yours, confident that IT would still be publishing its [illegible] interviews two months after workers' soviets were declared on Merseyside and Clydeside

David Widgery
2 Chapel Market, N1

[illegible] RSL [illegible] Gardens, E2. [illegible] 1870.

Dear IT

I must congratulate you after reading this current issue of your filthy rag, which I would not be able to wipe my bum with you must be terribly enterprising to actually put such a load of you on the bookstalls (though I note that an army of unwashed morons help you with street sales) and to sell it makes you a pack of BRAINS.

I suppose your regular readership are a selection of society's misfits: homos, lesbians, intersexuals, prostitutes, junkies, unmarried mothers, in fact all the kinky types under the ruddy sun!

But you are the most despicable of all you cash in on the perversions of such people as male homosexuals by offering them by way of adverts pile of pornographic piles which these poor abnormals will lap up like vultures round a bloody corpse.

To hell with the lot of you, you bleeding bastards and bisexual cunts

Love not

TERRY

IT OU

Dear IT

[illegible]

PAUL THOMPSON
[illegible] Hall,
[illegible] Rd., SE1

Dear IT

Summer was hot when the first free Pop concert came, there was little opposition. Oh sorry! a few uncool got busted, and everyone forgot to pick up their litter. Then came another concert, this time litter was less noticeable. Then came another concert and Agent Apathy moved in. The whole world was tolerated. Sometime before the real dropouts — Skinheads — had been born (they are going nowhere too, but at least you can feel them on the streets)

Then the Stones played, the Hells Angels got deliberately recommended and played Florence Nightingales. Agent Apathy got crowned King and tolerance reached its peak. The concert having made headlines, then made bored from a TV show

Somewhere between all this the Living Theatre came. They screamed and spat at the straights so they become straighter Living Theatre screamed 'TAKE THE STREETS' [illegible] one word. Who forgot the streets? Who forgot the barricades of Paris? Who will forget the barricades of Northern Ireland?

THE SCENE – SPLIT UP

All that matters are the Joints, heads lost somewhere between music, the flesh and the smoke – Discords. Groups play to an audience that [illegible] itself inside a plastic world. Inside this womb you blast yourself away until you become ineffective

Summer never exploded the lever alone
Summer never built barricades
Summer never fill the streets
Summer never brought us and our aims
together, only the music
No one got higher than the sun, and
came back to hell
Peak summer only brought all the
commodities together so that the
plastic womb would not melt.
THE MOTHERFUCKERS GO FREE AND
ALL THE RICHES
AND THE UNDERGROUND HAS
BECOME THE NON EXISTENT
OVERGROUND WITHOUT ANY REAL
HUSTLERS.
THIS WINTER LETS BUILD A FIRE
FOR ALL TO SEE
WE WANT A REVOLUTION
AND WE WANT IT NOW

Love,

ULLI McCARTHY

Dear IT

If you are really serious about the decentralisation of IT and if you really want to know what's happening in the country then you have to make the paper of some interest to readers, and potential readers, in the provinces.

IT is London dominated, it carries London news, you've realised this and appealed for news from the country. This is great but your office is still in London and you are still as moronic as ever. Have you considered and could you afford to open offices (the word office sounds grand — they needn't be) in provincial cities? Say Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol!

I don't suggest you open all the offices at once or even that they be in the cities I've mentioned. But it might be an idea to try one office, perhaps in Edinburgh, a lot seems to happen there. Then if it is successful in gathering more news, making the paper more relevant, increasing sales and advertising, perhaps even encouraging people to take initiatives and get things together, you could consider opening offices elsewhere.

Whatever you think of this suggestion, I think you'll agree that if IT is to be decentralised it is essential it be run do less moronic. You're not in the sticks. Perhaps if you can't afford offices you could afford part-time company desks in the provinces.

You must make IT a national paper not a London one with a provincial readership.

Yours sincerely

South East Arts Lab Co. Operative
65 Oak Ridge, Goodwyns,
Dorking, Surrey

REPLY TO ROSIE TAGGART'S LETTER IN IT 64

Dear Rosie,

Your letter about [illegible] making love the [illegible] is very appropriate. It's interesting to note that the wholesale price of [illegible] has [illegible] in the last two years although retail prices are constantly rising. If you go to [illegible] on [illegible] in All Saint's Road, near [illegible] you will find [illegible] at the price of 1/8 per pound. We also sell [illegible] a pound. [illegible] a different type which is fairly dirty and needs much washing. Anybody charging over 1/9 per pound is hustling. However, the [illegible] is a different type from the [illegible] and for the price they pay for it, 10/- is a fair price. At CERES we sell both types [illegible] Chinese [illegible].

You have to be careful about buying the 'cheaper' [illegible] from the [illegible] and [illegible], as many of them contain chemicals, monosodium glutamate, colouring, etc. Often, with things like miso, chemicals are used in the fermentation process but are not listed as actual ingredients. They also [illegible].

Worth noting, also, is that we are soon receiving [illegible] from Japan and, among other things, we'll be selling [illegible] packets of [illegible] tea for something under 5/-. [illegible].

Love,

GREG SAMS
8a All Saints Road, W11

Dear Sir or Miss,

If you are lucky you may not know at [illegible] the real horror of loneliness. However, the truth is that anyone, even you, can become a lonely tormented person. All it takes is a rough break in life. I pray you always have friends

Having been lonely I have a rough idea of the kind of advice a lonely young man (and there are many in London) would like to have. Hence this letter.

One of the biggest and most frightening symbols of London to me is loneliness. This letter is addressed to any of your readers who, at this time, may be lonely in London. My advice is simple — go to Torquay

Four years ago I was lonely almost to the point of suicide when living in London. Few people liked me, even fewer wanted to know me. I worked in a warehouse where my shy advances to girls were always rebuffed, and lived in a bedsitter where I didn't even know the name of the landlady. I was so low it just wasn't true.

Sure enough about that, the fact is that now four years later (I was then 19, I am now 23) I am living happily in Torquay with (thank God) a lot of true friends and a girl friend who loves me. I feel sure that had I stayed in London I would have stayed lonely and even killed myself by now

The best time to go to Torquay is in April at the start of the holiday season when a lot of new people are arriving in the town from all over the country and looking for new friends. You will notice straight away that there are more girls in Torquay than there are in London and that generally they are friendlier to strangers. What at this time of the year (April) is plentiful. The best job for a lonely young man to get is that of a beach photographer. In April this job is easy to get and reasonably easy to do (honestly). Doing this job will bring you into contact with as many girls as you want, and if you don't know how to chat up a girl the other photographers will soon show you how. Other good jobs for meeting young people are — for boys waitering in hotels, waiters, hotel porters, serving in seaside cafes, barmen and in the clubs. And for girls waitresses and chambermaids in hotels.

One thing I've noticed about lonely people is that they tend to wear dark clothes. This is a mistake because dark clothes (now out of fashion) tend to mark you as a lonely person in other people's eyes (subconsciously of course) and they avoid you from the start. Apart from this I have found from experience that a boy dressed in bright clothes tends to attract more girls and vice versa. When I lived in London I wore black 'Tuf' shoes, dark blue jeans and a black donkey jacket covering a [illegible] white shirt. I didn't realise it then but this 'uniform' made me inconspicuous and stamped me as a lonely person. Now in Torquay I wear (among other things) a light pink shirt (with a huge [illegible] collar), green bell bottom trousers, light brown sandals and a large floral tie. It may sound stupid to someone reading this in a lonely London bedsitter but wearing these clothes makes you more interesting to other people (especially girls). Please believe me. It's true!!!

A few quick hints to lonely boys of any age

When talking to a girl don't talk too much about yourself and what YOU done today. She will think you conceited.

Talk a bit about her — what she does for a living, what clothes she likes to wear, where she likes to go in the evenings etc.

Girls like window shopping, talking, dancing, drinking, smoking pot (some of them [illegible] anyway), being chased by boys. Also when you're with a girl, don't brag, they dig modest boys. If you're not very good at your job [illegible] admit it they will love you for it.

Girls coming to Torquay should wear bright clothes. They will have little trouble meeting nice boys. By the way, in case there are any young men still in doubt, girls love sex just as much if not more than young men, so that I'll swear.

Torquay is only a small establishment (pop. 10,000) so it's a moderately easy to meet and make friends with people. People here are a million times friendlier than people in London. At least I find them so. To help you to get off to a good start the best places to go to meet people are — The Castle Pub, The Archway Cafe (opposite the Castle Pub), The Yacht Pub (down by the harbour and only open in summer) The harbour side where hippies, students and young middle aged or old people congregate in summer and Mamma's Cafe (by the harbour). By going to these places day after day after day you stand a good chance of meeting and seeing the same young men and girls. The secret is perseverance. If you go to these places I have mentioned time and time again (not giving up for a period of any time) you stand a good chance of meeting and making friends as [illegible]. Oh and the Rising Sun Pub is a good pub to meet people.

There is a fairly [illegible] drug [illegible] in Torquay (very little hard drugs, thank god) [illegible] if it will help you out of your loneliness and [illegible] you will be OK (stay away from speed and all hard drugs). Also, [illegible] will give you a really much circle of friends, including [illegible] girls.

If you've got love in your heart and want to share it with other people, come to Torquay [illegible] summer [illegible]. It's easy to find rooms and flats to live in at low priced rents.

Remember — Torquay is [illegible] San Francisco.

I love you and the lonelier you are the more I love you. I love you.

ALAN
Torquay 1969

Dear IT

Thank God someone is fighting for us '[illegible]' a [illegible] drawing [illegible] by the fact that we're not being [illegible] but [illegible] the [illegible] that [illegible] here

I thought I had a sob story, but if you could see some of the [illegible] here [illegible]. The worst of it all is that the people who are [illegible] from coming here [illegible] into believing that it is for their own good. 20th century concept of [illegible] is largely [illegible] the use of ECT [illegible] to think of [illegible] the prescription for schizophrenia. [illegible] I [illegible] to get [illegible] thinking [illegible] and going for a [illegible] more than twice [illegible].

If you're lucky you see your doctor once a week for five minutes, and he's a [illegible] of [illegible] your questions. Who's so competent that while talking he lost [illegible] week I [illegible] he'd forgotten what I was in for. Although I received no treatment of any sort he refuses to let me go [illegible]. Being so I have to clothe, [illegible] and buy my necessities on 18/- pw.

It's not for myself I cry, it's for a thousand souls lost in the void. It is for ECT [illegible] it's for [illegible] of lunacy [illegible] forced by my friend [illegible] it's for those [illegible] section 26 expires and is replaced by section 26. For those playing [illegible] with [illegible] for the [illegible] of experiments. For those [illegible] since 1940

The walls have been [illegible] down and replaced by [illegible], the physical [illegible] replaced by [illegible]. Thanks for being the first to draw attention to it, the truth will set us free. I love you

Peace.

D Jackson
Ward M1, [illegible] Hospital,
Nr. [illegible]

[illegible] I would like to hear from anyone [illegible] PS. [illegible] hospital [illegible]

FEW

Alone I and halfdrunk hopeful
I staggered into the bogs
at Green Park Station
and found 30 written on the wall

Appalled I lurched out
into the windy blazing neon Piccadilly night
thinking surely
Surely there must be more of us than that

ANNUAL/MY OLD FLAME

Once a year I see her meet her
in town on a corner by accident
neon lights

Once a year I see her meet her
in town on a corner by accident
neon eyes that light in recognition
I never look for her she might
even be easy to find
Sometimes she comes home with me
it's never her place she has no place
and we make love under my old cracked ceiling
She says a grin 'you're getting better'
and I 'You're still fantastic'
Or we exchange news she kisses
me and has to go but
she will be back later will come
round never is never does,
is claimed by the buildings and faces
her Night I an intruder my ridiculous health
hers gone returned gone
now death pallor now dayglow
— but always long slender legs
so good I need to kiss
that she taught me
to obey myself in her
I cannot help but love
when I see her
I remember to be new

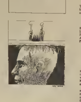
FIRST POEM FOR MOLE

I knew we were in the sewer
I said 'Hey
just look at all that piss & stuff
floating by'
But they just stared at me
as if it wasn't there

POVERTY/SWEET SUBSTITUTE

I've never slept with
Anyone but you on
a floor she said but
after a while she
found someone with
a bed
instead

From LET 'EM ROLL KAFKA by Pete Brown.
Available from Fulcrum Press 20 Fitzroy Square,
London W1 21/- cloth 10/6 paperback



Other recently published books sent to IT for review/info/spread the word include:

'THE FINAL PROGRAMME' by Michael Moorcock, with illustrations by Mal Dean. (Allison & Busby 25/-)

LANDSCAPES by Lee Harwood (Fulcrum 25/-)

MUTINY IS AN UGLY WORD CRAMPTON!

YOUNG POLITICIAN

What a lovely lovely moon
And it won the constituency too

alan jackson

POOR LAW

The Police are numbered
for only one reason
in case they get lost

spike hawkins

From BLACK DOG by Mal Dean with poems by
Libby Houston, Alan Jackson, Pete Brown, Spike
Hawkins, Johnny Byrne & Roger Jones
Available from IT 27 Endell Street London WC2
Price 5/-

not interested in legalizing marijuana
not interested in electing a better police commissioner
we do not need restrictive law
its not that no one kills
its that everyone lives

no use improving the laws
myth that the law can be improved
myth that the law has to do with justice
the law enforces the system and the system is not just
we don't need justice we need life
justice awards the verdict to authority and property
justice sold in the system is the illusion of a people afraid
to do for themselves
and it is the system that makes us afraid of one another
it is the system that makes us greedy and possessive
it is the system that requires the law

i want to get rid of capital punishment
because anything we can do to stop the killing and
prolong the living comes first
but i don't want to change the marijuana law
i want to keep breaking it
i want to break the law
to shatter it on the rocks to see the scattering of the pieces
and the dissolution of illusion
i want to break the law
i want our freedom

From 21 SONGS OF THE REVOLUTION by Julian Beck

ALTERNATIVE TO MARRIAGE?

We are still appealing for more regional information. To start off we print this BIT report on Arts Labs. In future issues this will go in an extended Whats Happening. Please send all info to BIT who will pass a fortnightly report on to us. Of course, we still want to hear from you too — but please supply us with events and dates well in advance.

THE ARTS LAB MOVEMENT

1967 VISION: May 150 Labs bloom!
1969 FACTS: Just about a dozen fully-fledged Labs in existence — About a dozen and a half Labs without permanent premises but nevertheless active. And well over two dozen Labs at an early stage, sometimes no more than a nucleus of people meeting and planning their first benefit.
JULY 27TH 1969: Arts Labs met and divided themselves into 8 Regional Co-operatives with a co-ordinator for each region.

NOW WHAT IS AN ARTS LAB ANYWAY?

Jim Haynes of the Drury Lane Lab tells it like it is: [illegible] feel that an Arts Lab has the following characteristics:

(a) a Lab is an 'energy centre' where anything can happen depending upon the needs of the people running each individual Lab and the characteristics of the building.

(b) a Lab is a non-institution, we all know what a hospital, theatre, police station and other 'institutions' are [illegible] but a Lab [illegible].

(c) Within each Lab the space should be used in a loose fluid multi-purpose way — [illegible] theatre [illegible] restaurant, a gallery, a bedroom, [illegible] etc etc.

(d) I am interested in creating a fluid commune situation where a group of people live and work together. At the Covent Garden Lab we have 15 to 20 people who live and work together 7 days a week. No one is paid — 'from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs' — we have space, food, ideas, work [illegible].

Now may I say something about politics. People ask me if the Arts Lab is political. Anyone who is interested in changing anyone's attitude on anything is committing a political act. We at the Covent Garden Lab hold certain philosophic attitudes to the world, and we hope to show others by word and deed that these philosophic/political attitudes can be transmitted [illegible] political media. Every person is a medium, [illegible].

[illegible] for art [illegible] interested in bringing people together in a real [illegible] way [illegible] very interested in 'marketing' art or anything for that matter."

ARTS LAB SOLIDARITY

Jim earlier this year put forth a support system for Labs which he named 'Arts Labs in Great Britain Trust'. The Trust, launched in June as a sub-section of a registered charity [illegible] Trust, is administered by a committee of elected Arts Labs representatives and Arts Council observers, [illegible] meets every [illegible] month in London. [illegible] for Labs from industry, the Arts Council and private foundations, and [illegible] Labs [illegible] in their negotiations with local authorities. More information on the Trust and [illegible] the first issue of the [illegible] Newsletter [illegible] IT/66 [illegible] can be had by contacting Nicholas Albery at BIT Information Service, 141 Westbourne Park Road, London W11 (tel. 229 8219).

ARTS LABS & RELATED PHENOMENA/ ADDRESSES & NEWS BY REGIONS

LONDON REGION ARTS LAB CO-OPERATIVE co-ordinated by Nicholas at BIT. It includes:

BECKENHAM ARTS LAB contact [illegible]

[illegible] ARTS LAB [illegible] Croydon [illegible]

[illegible] WORKSHOP [illegible]

DRURY LANE ARTS LAB 182 Drury Lane, WC2, (tel 242 [illegible]) [illegible]

Good news. [illegible]

[illegible]

EAST LONDON WORKSHOP PROJECT [illegible]

HOUNSLOW ARTS LAB c/o [illegible]

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN ART & TECHNOLOGY/THE LONDON NEW ARTS LABORATORY otherwise known as THE FACTORY [illegible]

NORTH LONDON ARTS UNION [illegible]

NOTTING HILL ARTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE [illegible]

[illegible] ARTS WORKSHOP [illegible]

[illegible] Sheen Rd, [illegible]

BASILDON ARTS LAB [illegible]

BEDFORD [illegible] ENTERPRISES [illegible]

[illegible] ARTS LAB [illegible]

NORWICH ARTS LAB [illegible]

YARMOUTH ARTS LAB [illegible]

WALTHAM [illegible] ARTS GROUP [illegible]

EAST ANGLIAN REGION ARTS CO-OP co-ordinated by Martin Reed, 1 Victoria St, Cambridge (tel Cambridge 63973).

CAMBRIDGE ARTS LAB [illegible]

THE SOUTH EAST ARTS LAB CO-OP co-ordinated by Peter Davidson, 55 Oak Ridge, Goodwyns, Dorking, Surrey (tel Dorking 4368). Bringing out a regular information 'sponsheet'.

THE BRIGHTON COMBINATION [illegible]

CANTERBURY ARTS LAB PROJECT [illegible]

EPSOM ARTS LAB PROJECT [illegible]

FARNHAM ARTS LAB [illegible]

[illegible] ARTS CENTRE, WOKING [illegible]

GUILDFORD ARTS LAB PROJECT [illegible]

LIVING ARTS WORKSHOP, BEXHILL [illegible]

[illegible] ARTS WORKSHOP [illegible]

SOUTHAMPTON [illegible]

[illegible] ARTS LAB [illegible]

WEYBRIDGE ARTS LAB PROJECT [illegible]

WORTHING WORKSHOP [illegible]

THE SOUTH WEST ARTS LAB CO-OP co-ordinated by

BRISTOL ARTS LAB [illegible]

THE [illegible]

CHELTENHAM ARTS LAB [illegible]

EXETER ARTS LAB [illegible]

ST IVES ARTS [illegible]

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE LAB [illegible]

TORBAY ARTS LAB [illegible]

WALES

BANGOR ARTS LAB PROJECT [illegible]

CARDIFF [illegible]

SOUTH WALES ARTS LAB [illegible]

[illegible]

MIDLANDS REGION ARTS LAB CO-OP co-ordinated by Fred Smith from the

BIRMINGHAM ARTS LAB [illegible]

COVENTRY ARTS UMBRELLA [illegible]

LEICESTER ARTS LAB [illegible]

LOUGHBOROUGH [illegible]

NORTHAMPTON ARTS LAB [illegible]

[illegible] ARTS LAB [illegible]

STOKE ARTS LAB [illegible]

THE YORKSHIRE OPEN WORKSHOP (CIRCUIT) co-ordinated by Al Beach, 9 Parkinson [illegible], Halifax, Yorks (tel Halifax 22230).

[illegible]

[illegible] ARTS LAB [illegible]

LEEDS ARTS LAB [illegible]

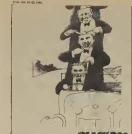
[illegible] ARTS LAB PROJECT [illegible]

NORTH WEST REGION ARTS LAB CO-OP co-ordinated [illegible] by [illegible]

THE LIVERPOOL [illegible]

THE MAGIC VILLAGE, MANCHESTER [illegible]

STUDIO [illegible] LAB [illegible] Manchester [illegible]



Poems by
PETE BROWN LIBBY HOUSTON
SPIKE HAWKINS ALAN JACKSON
ROGER JONES n JOHNNY BYRNE.

NAME
ADDRESS

Please send me a copy of Mal Dean s BLACK DOG
at the ridiculous price

A huge city n student city millions of people,thousands of things to do where to find a flat what to do with it G strings for 6/6,pubs clubs, sport,art crosses for hot cross buns,something for nothing,scenes sounds in fact a complete guide to what's happening in

STUDENT LONDON

3/6 from bookstalls and students unions. Published by Dominion Press,Grand Buildings Trafalgar Square,London wc2 tel 930 1322

SOME OF IT which has been selling at a pre-publication price of £1, will now cost 25s at yr local bookshop because otherwise we would find our selves losing money on it.

PLEASE SOCK SOME OF IT TO ME
I enclose 25/-.

NAME

ADDRESS

To SOME OF IT 27 Endell st. London WC

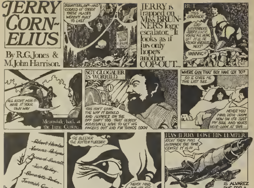
CHAPPAQUA

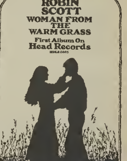
afilmbyconradrookswithconradrooksjean-louisbarraultwilliamburroughs allenginsbergravishankarpaulapritchettornettecolemanmoondogthefugs

at the electric 1st november

JERRY CORNELIUS

By R.G. Jones & M. John Harrison.


SQUATTERS, EH?—AND COOKED UP GOOD!! THESE PLACES WEREN'T BUILT TO LAST
GOVT ... ONLY
JERRY is trapped on Miss BRUNNER'S logic escalator. It looks as if his only hope's another COP-OUT...
BUT...
MISS BRUNNER!
GOD! SUSPENDERS JERRY BABY YOU'RE ALL HUNG UP! IT'LL BE FRENCH KNICKERS NEXT!
NNNNNG!!
ALL RIGHT MISS B HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY
Meanwhile, back at the Time Centre...
SGT GLOGAUER IS WORRIED
THIS ISN'T GOING THE WAY IT SHOULD AND ALVAREZ ON THE OFF SHIFT TOO. THAT BLOODY ASSASSIN'LL HAVE TO GET HIS FINGERS OUT AND FIX THINGS SOON
WHERE CAN THAT BOY HAVE GOT TO?
SO I GIVES ME THIS LIST SEE
NEVER YOU MIND, DEAR. FROM NOW ON IT'S JUST MY SOUL AND YOURS HERE- LOOK AT THIS
~~Robert Hamlet~~
~~Vanessa Redgrave~~
~~Bernard Bennett~~
~~Ian Paisley~~
~~Bernadette Devlin~~
Jeremiah Cornelius
THE BLEEDER THE ROTTEN BLEEDER
NEVER MIND LOVE-IT'S THE ISSUE OF ENTROPY AFTER ALL
HAS JERRY LOST HIS TEMPER?
RIGHT THEN MISS BRUNNER THE TIME CENTRE IT IS!!!
IS ALVAREZ DUE FOR A BRING-DOWN? NEXT POSITIVE ENTROPY!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VIOLENCE IN BRITAIN

photo John Hopkins

IT IS CUSTOMARY to suppose that the British are not a violent people. Unlike certain other peoples who could be mentioned (and usually are) the British are alleged to be more gentle, restrained and tolerant than lesser breeds and hence less violent. There is no good reason for dwelling on violence for its own sake, and no one but a madman would want to see violence increase in any part of the world. But I believe that in their belief that they are necessarily less prone to bloody physical acts than other people the English are indulging themselves in a dangerous illusion, an illusion which blinds them to what is already happening and about to happen and will leave them less able through ignorance to deal with the growing pressure of events than they might be if prepared with a little hard knowledge.

The British are more self-controlled than other people it is claimed. In much the same way it is often claimed that the British press, British justice, British [illegible], and an overall British [illegible] far exceed these qualities in other folk. In all these cases one would do well to be suspicious of any comparison that works out in favour of the person making it. One must ask if the motive behind the comparison is in fact a genuine desire for knowledge or, as I believe to be the case, merely the desire for a gratuitous sense of superiority.

This fierce assertion of English gentleness is based upon one of the [illegible] of bases, that of comparative statistics and on what is probably the least substantiated statistic of all, the yearly murder rate. According to Colin Wilson's ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MURDER New York has a murder a day, Paris two a day, but London only one a fortnight. All these figures have probably gone up since this book was published, but what do they really mean? Do they actually signify that there are fewer murders in England than elsewhere? Government spokesmen and others were quick to deny that statistics of this nature issued this summer could possibly be accurate when they seemed to reveal what many people know is the case, that the murder and violent crime rate is rising. It was claimed that the higher figures merely revealed increased English efficiency in gathering them. But might the English figures actually err in the other direction and show far fewer murders than are actually committed here at home? I believe that they do so err.

Consider the English character, and how crimes of violence tend to be committed at home and abroad. In most of the world violence is usually direct, outright, & pointed sharply at the intended target — it takes place between members of a family, known enemies, betrayed lovers, almost always in a fit of super-charged anger which the criminal may then regret or at least overcome. In most of the world violence, like other acts and emotions, is open, above-cut and direct. In England I believe, violence like other acts and emotions, is covert, bloody and devious. For this reason I believe the murderer often goes undetected. It would be fairer to say that the English are better murderers than others than to say there are fewer of them.

Consider the character of many English murders and murderers. It is often discovered that murders in England are multiple in nature. It also happens with a fair frequency that these crimes are not discovered until many years after they have occurred. It is also true that a tendency to wall up the victim is encountered in English murder. No one would need to be very hard into psychology to know what walling up means in the conscious or unconscious mind and what it may mean in terms of English character — it is the same drive that makes the ordinary Englishman fold a letter many times more often than people abroad and put it into an incredibly small envelope. This tendency to wall things up means that there are no meaningful murder statistics in England because no one knows because no one wants to know.

This is why so many English want to believe violence is something that only occurs elsewhere, precisely because they do not want to know what is happening at home. This means that the most innocent-looking little old women, those lovely little characters with whom it sometimes seems England is over-populated, may not be so innocent at all as they frailly and eccentrically eke out the last years since the sudden passing of their husbands and relatives. This often turns out to be the case in the stories of Agatha Christie who with her compatriot, Conan-Doyle, shares the [illegible] honour of having invented the murder mystery, set in some [illegible] jungle but, oddly enough, here in England. Japanese schizophrenics are different from schizophrenics elsewhere in that they tend to withdraw into a corner and shred pieces of paper and bamboo into bits — other schizophrenics tend to hit out against people and society. There is no reason to suppose that murder in England does not follow its own similarly idiosyncratic pattern.

There are one or two other points which must be considered. First of all the fact that forensic institutes and laboratories are not so advanced or so numerous here as in other countries, so that thorough scientific investigation of crime does not take place. This also would tend to influence the murder statistics — it is assumed that these institutions are not necessary because there are fewer violent crimes, but this may merely be a case of circular reasoning — because no one is looking, no one is finding anything.

Another important factor is the growing discrepancy between the various figures available on missing persons in England. The usual figure supplied from the Salvation Army register is around 20,000 per year but other estimates run as high as 100,000 per year or one out of every 500 Englishmen. Thus far no one has taken the responsibility of determining what these figures really are — local police and authorities often do not record reports on missing people, justifying themselves by claiming that a man has a right to disappear now and then as part of his privacy. This explanation is full of that wonderful English eccentric character we all like to admire, but is it a true one? Could it be that these people might be missing for weightier reasons which, once again, no one wants to know for fear of what they might discover?

The assertion of superior English gentleness and law-abidingness seems to grow more [illegible] as conditions grow less gentle and law-abiding, which suggests that some people are merely beginning to repeat a lesson they learned in school in a growingly hysterical manner. Against this summer's assassination attempts in Wales, a race riot in Leeds (yes, it was a real race riot, and if you don't think it happened then you are typical of what this article is about) and the current troubles in an Ireland ruled by the English for over three centuries, the English gentleman fresh simply shouts out the certainty that violence only happens abroad and that the Irish are all savages anyway and even that is happening far away in a country thirty miles from the heart of Englishness and whiteness, England.

It is also useful to consider what the English are trying to prove by repeating these assertions and to whom. Current discussions on violence rarely tend to compare England to France, for example, because it is an erroneous assumption of many English that the French are somehow more civilised. No one bothers to make comparisons with the Dutch or the Scandinavians, possibly because these might prove favourable to the foreigners. But no one is really interested in comparing the English with other Europeans, almost all direct or implied comparisons on violence in today's press are there for proving that the English are the gentlest, most reasonable of beings and the Americans nothing but wild trigger-happy fiends. Why — what is the reason and what is the purpose? It is because the English have still not abandoned their imperial pretensions to be best and highest on the planet and they resent the intrusion of the Americans, all of them ultimately of lower-class origins into this realm. And this in turn is because the English have still not found some other more satisfying identity for themselves than imagining themselves rulers of the world itself or some purely defined empire of the mind. The point here is not to trigger off love or hate of the Americans but to recognise that all countries in the world today must learn as never before, in the coming knowledge that people in other countries are real and flesh-and-blood beings with similar problems.

The comparison with America is superficial because it does not take into consideration climatic differences which are growingly seen to influence our actions — this is something that can only be solved chemically by an anti-weather pill. But there is no doubt that Londoners could never take a New York summer without a radical alteration in the London crime rate. New York is also a multi-racial and multi-national city in a way that London is not, which produces its own tensions. The English at one time claimed they had no black problem but that was before they had any blacks. There is also no doubt that just as there are more overt violent encounters between people in New York than in London (bearing in mind the correct, devious mode of home) so there is also a greater total number of encounters of all kinds in New York than here, which is simply to say that more people meet, talk to each other and develop relationships there than here. This is also true of the Continent. When a gas is brought to a greater heat, there are more collisions between molecules but also more movement and more contact and more chances for exchange.

The continued use of dubious comparisons on violence in the English press is not merely bad thinking and bad journalism, it is pernicious in effect and dangerous in its consequences. It is a remnant of clouded imperial nationalistic thinking at a time when not only England but peoples everywhere must begin to reject attitudes from the past, including nationalism itself, if the world is to survive. In the long run the only people the English are fooling by indulging in these spurious hole-in-the-wall statistics are themselves.

Alex Gross

photo Pete Sanders

WHAT does straight society offer to kids — schools, youth clubs, young people's theatre? When those in charge aren't rank authoritarians, they're liberals looking for a good conscience glow. Most of these professional adolescent minders, are adolescents at one period what people are finding themselves (i.e. in the throes of realising what a hell of an awful mess it all is) and therefore anything they say in the process should not be taken seriously. The great bogey word is politics, never say or do anything that's related to the outside world as this might be construed as political, don't influence them, corrupt them, destroy their innocence, their integrity. These phrases are taken quite seriously by most people in the kids scene, or off they rush into the realms of fantastical dribblings dragging the kids behind them.

I started working with Jean Newell, from the Royal Court, on a project called Revolution. We had 140 kids ranging from the ages of 14—18 and from backgrounds ranging from the Hampstead elite to the Brixton ghetto. They were in groups of about a dozen acting out their ideas about revolution, some of which were very weird. We were determined at first to let them do their own thing, but we had underestimated the extent to which the British education system destroys people's capacity to do their own thing. They demanded a lead, a direction from us, they wanted us to be [illegible]. The project which started originally for two weeks in July has carried on intermittently ever since. They spent a week at the Roundhouse in August where they set up a school environment, reminding the comfortable liberals who came to see it just what it was like to be treated as a rather tiresome object for most of one's life, making them sit down, stand up, line up, sing and shut up. They've now started doing a play which explores the way in which teachers [illegible] them. Back in their schools they have begun to understand the process which is being imposed on them and the need to take some action against it. They're developing a kind of drama — theatre, whatever one wants to call it, which is theirs — their language, their minds. Perhaps more important than what they are doing is the fact that it is a scene of their own — don't underestimate the drag of being 14 — dependent on your parents for bread, caged in at school and really having nowhere to go. They can go to the usual things set up for them where the liberals will tell them about [illegible] self-development and everybody's potential, but these people won't understand their language, they won't help them understand and fight against the system which is crippling them.

Ed Berman's Interaction is a classic example of this scene. Ed talks about the Arts serving society, he trails around the slums of Notting Hill, but he thinks [illegible] knowing if he in any way showed himself committed to real change — his money would dry up and his empire collapse. But one doesn't really need bread, it's amazing how easy it is to find free empty space in London especially on Sunday. Both the London Arts Labs will let you have space for kids work. The kids' fares are sometimes a problem but you can beg or borrow that and to get the kids themselves interested is easy, most of them are bored out of their heads, so if you run into a playground at the end of school — zoom a bit of a distance, challenge the authority of the playground, any kid who feels that desire (and most of them do) will show themselves.

[illegible] we all carp about the education system, unspeakably counting off about how its the basis of so many evils — yet its quite fragile at some points — if all the people with degrees sitting round in London took on teaching jobs for a couple of weeks they could create quite a bit of havoc.

The Underground and some of the allied revolutionary movements rely on some sort of arbitrary personal situation for recruiting members, and then its exclusiveness tends to put anyone kids off. It wouldn't take that much time, energy or effort to set up rival institutions to those that are presented to the kids now. It's not all that easy to work out where one is in relation to society and those of us who think we've got some kind of alternative view should try and help kids come through the often overpowering insanity called education.

At the moment we're trying to set up a warehouse in the East End and need some bread, could anyone who's interested or who can help with a donation, get in touch with Pam c/o I.T.?

'WE'RE ALL LIVING IN ONE PLACE

Come on take my hand
And understand
We're part of a great and happy land
So come in and join the human race
Cos we're all living in one place

One sun one sky
One human cry
One hope one need
To be alive and free
We belong to each other
There's only one race
Cos we're all living in one place

Hey you over there
Will you stand alone
You win for a time
But you soon come home
When you see that it's hard to stand apart
Cos we're all living in one place

One dark one light
One human plight
One world one way
To the final day
We belong to each other
There's only one race
Cos we're all living in one place

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MUSIC FOR THE HELL OF IT

JUDGING by audience reaction the Edgar Broughton band render the most exciting live performances of any group on the underground scene at the moment. Their music is consummated by the sheer level of participation from the audience in the lyrics of their numbers.

I spent an afternoon talking to the group in their South London flat and gleaned some interesting information from them. Edgar was the first to appear, awakened after having bad dreams about the previous night's gig at the Speakeasy. The group were not really what the Speakeasy and their audience of middle-class swingers were all about and Edgar was thoroughly disillusioned by the so-called 'in' people there who seemed to enjoy being [illegible] more than anything. The other members of the group arrived and explained that they are no longer doing the 7-gigs-a-week thing and welcomed the intermittent rest periods they were now able to enjoy. Of the London clubs they preferred Fulham [illegible], the Country Club and Implosion but Edgar proclaims 'We much prefer doing free concerts — in fact this year we have played more free concerts than any other group.'

It was the Hyde Park concerts this year that enabled the band to be introduced to the masses, and their form of [illegible] was an immediate [illegible]. However the last concert that pleased the group more than anything else they have done this year was the return to their home town of Warwick on September 13th.

The [illegible] of this incredible gathering concerns the efforts of the group to organise a free Arts concert in the local park complete with [illegible] of paintings, poetry readings [illegible]. The original plan was for the group to remain in the background but Edgar told me that he suspected the council knew about their part in the organisation of the thing and thus was why the problems developed. The problems consisted of a [illegible] over [illegible] and a row over the closing time of the event. Finally the council decided to harass the organisers so intensely that the Arts in the Park free concert had to be abandoned. Undeterred the group and their contingent of Hells Angels [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] of the Warwick [illegible] and hire a lorry and generator to parade around the streets of Warwick playing their music.

Secret broadcasts asked local heads to gather at Warwick Court House at exactly 7 o'clock and the fuzz were kept guessing as 500 youths (including a large sprinkling of Skinheads, Angels and Mongols) wandered across Warwick to descend upon the Court House and follow the lorry pied-piper style through the town which was blocked for three hours.

Typical of the council's attitude was a comment by one official that was reported in the local press after the street concert: "The [illegible] was [illegible] on them having a park concert. It was just that we didn't allow it this year that's all. This looks very much like a publicity stunt to me." The whole thing went off without any trouble (perhaps that's why it failed to make the national press) and the spirit of the [illegible] was adequately expressed by two elderly pensioners visiting Warwick for the day who commented: "Well that's one way to get things done." [illegible] we hope they get their free concert next year.

Edgar told me that the group will continue to play as many free concerts as possible next year as they are 'the thing of the future'. Steve added that they would be pleased to hear from anyone who is arranging free concerts.

One thing that [illegible] more interest in the group than [illegible] other bands who indulge in similar music is the

Broughton involvement in the Revolution. This is well demonstrated by the visit they paid to the late 144 Piccadilly the night before the fuzz smashed their way in. Over £100 had been collected for the squatters in response to the group's appeal at the Hyde Park Free Concert, and this was gratefully received by the London Street Commune. Inside the building Edgar went on, the group were treated as leaders and some became part of the co-ordinating committee. They were also due to play for the squatters at Endell Street ([illegible] the IT office) but the place was busted before they got the chance.

I asked Edgar if he saw himself as a leader of the revolution and he replied 'I don't think I would possibly lead a revolution in the physical scene. It could be done so much better by so many other people you see. It isn't that I'm afraid of getting killed or anything like that, but the revolution must come from the people themselves.' Edgar is vehemently opposed to telling people how to co-ordinate the revolution. He doesn't want to be seen as a leader and prefers to stimulate ideas and thought in his audience.

Following on the revolution theme, I asked the group if they thought their act could ever provoke the sort of reaction that the MC5 are getting in the States. Edgar replied 'We don't go out to incite riots of course but if there is any trouble where we play then that's just hard luck.' They also thought that the lyrics of their numbers were not particularly subversive and that people must make up their own minds about any message in their numbers. Certainly though the message is clear in numbers such as American Boy Soldier and Mrs Crowley.

The group rejected the view that provincial audiences were less aware of the scene and were astonished at the potential creativity in some parts of the country. Steve remarked how often he has found youngsters had already been told about what the group had done in another town. An [illegible] good [illegible] news [illegible] the West Country on a recent tour. The Broughton Band have often been thought to have musical tastes influenced by Captain Beefheart. Edgar opposed this idea: 'It's really stupid, the only number of the Captain's we play is Dropout Boogie. You might as well say I was influenced by Hendrix, as [illegible]. Talking of Dropout Boogie, we've been told that our version is better than Beefheart's.' The group's first album is rather disappointing in as far as it inevitably lacks a lot of their stage presence.

The album was one of the first to be released on the new Harvest label along with that of the Third Ear Band. Their career has followed an almost synonymous path with that of the Broughton band. Both groups used to live in the Portobello Road area, both groups became established at the Country Club in Hampstead and both groups are associated with Blackhill and the Harvest label. However the similarity ends there because their music is a world apart and one wonders at the sense of EMI advertisements that place their albums side by side.

Even though they do not introduce all of their numbers, things like Love In The Rain and Evil soon become well known and [illegible] visually as Edgar, Arthur and Steve cavort about the stage like the [illegible] as they exercise

Musically the group are more experimental than they used to be and at some of their gigs Edgar has screamed abuse at the audience and he told me that they have completely [illegible] the [illegible]. At the ICA (entitled the CIA by the group) for their evening the [illegible] very quiet first session was followed by a second half in which most of the audience joined Edgar on the crowded stage and Edgar urged them on: 'You've got the power' he said, and the audience echoed him. 'Now what are you going to do with it?' Deadly silence followed by laughter from the group. It is not that the group want to be a [illegible] scene that they want people to think about their music as well as freak out to it.

The incredible black box Edgar uses on stage is called 'Handel' and was a gift from Charlie Watkins of W.E.M. It is most effective in The Psychopath, where its monotonic wailing exposes one's mind to evil visions as Edgar [illegible] 'Hello Little Girl, Does Anybody Know You're Here,' in his wicked tones.

I asked Edgar if the group has any plans for releasing another single in the near future. He said nothing was in the bag at present, but if anything exceptional came along they would definitely release it as a single. 'We don't necessarily see singles as a bad thing, in fact it would be really nice to see something good [illegible]' he explained. Steve told me how some of their fans in Notting Hill had [illegible] the release of 'Evil' [illegible] all singles were [illegible] the band. This view is surely very narrow-minded, as singles can help spread good music just as well as albums and anyway some of the group's [illegible] still prefer to [illegible] their music on a single.

The Edgar Broughton Band are on the way to becoming really big [illegible] in the same way as the Nice did by their live performances. So next time you hear a commotion in the streets and see a lorry being followed by hundreds of enthusiastic hippies you'll know who to look out for.

Dave Williams

TWENTY-SIX STATEMENTS ON THE NEW MUSIC

these are twenty-six statements on the new music. each statement exists in its own unit in reality, (activity) the spaces in between each statement should be quite empty (non-activity) most of the statements may seem completely unrelated to each other and irrelevant to the new music, but they are like the materials being used by the avant-garde composers ([illegible], la monte young etc) aren't concerned with musical sounds (notes), they are involved with everyday sounds (environmental noises) (reality) and electronic sounds (amplified reality) and visual activity. working in this area one brings together completely unrelated material to form one whole, the statements in some ways can be taken together so that they form the new music.

bernard [illegible]

[illegible] go thirsty

CONCEPTION

at what level of thinking do you intend to be without (the indirect object

space

attitudes **DESIRE**

(feeling our way in the dark we come across a beautiful shape, is it warm, does it breathe, does it smell, move (it isn't a sound as we are safe)

ACTUALITY

if you listen you can hear anything (but you must very carefully)(and only now and then)

times are changing **CHANGE**

( )

LY 426

SOME OF THEM ARE VE

sounds are there.

DO SOMETHING

do something else

(orange)

nights seem to be getting colder and sounds are still changing.

NINETEEN

nothing is accomplished by)

NOW

to understand the importance of the event is

but there is no rush for anything

AWARE (ARE YOU)

[illegible] these questions and I waited

LISTEN AND YOU'LL SEE EVERYTHING

FOLK ß THE ACCOUSTIC CREW

AL STEWART AND ROY HARPER ARE OFTEN SPOKEN OF AS IF THEY WERE VERY SIMILAR. But, as Harper pointed out in the Melody Maker recently, their respective repertoires are different in content although people ever bring them together in concert bills. For example at the Albert Hall early last year Harper was heckled and Stewart went down well. This illustrates that where the audience is a listening one, as the acoustic crew's audiences usually are, it is a mistake to lump together performers who may seem similar on the surface. In the acoustic crew it is harder to categorise than anywhere else.

In the same way that performers are becoming more difficult to label clubs are also changing. The acoustic crew have done much to break the barriers between pop and folk so it is possible to hear someone like Harper playing a little folk [illegible] a big beat club.

The most important development, of course, is in the music itself. As well as folk going electric, electric has gone folk. John Lennon doing 'I'm a Loser' was a first step and recently the Pink Floyd who could hardly be more electric sang 'Daybreak' with two acoustic guitars. The overall effect seems to be that the performer is freer.

Perhaps the day will come when we shall see a member of a blues band playing Donovan in the palais. The audience won't know where they are because there are no preconceptions to fall back on. This results eventually in another barrier broken, that between audience and performer. When a performer comes out from his classification he has to come to his audience.

The word 'folk' implies this nearness of audience and performer. The performer must be as near as a friend. I have hardly ever heard the Third Ear Band make an announcement, yet they are near the audience because they don't say the usual corny stuff. Roy Harper talks for sometimes ten minutes before a song, but he talks as he would to a friend.

If people are distant from their audience they cease to be folk, in the way I wish to use the word. For example nobody loves Mr Nixon, because nobody knows him. And if the Incredible String Band disappear behind a mystic haze, they are not folk but rate instead with Old Moore's Almanac.

People still seem to be able to accept things from a performer that they would never trust from a friend, but perhaps this tendency is dying out. In this sense we may be able to return to the idea of folk music being music that is played by people among us.

This general cross-fertilisation and folkness that I am trying to indicate points to McLuhan's idea of the global village where communication makes the world small. But the newer things get the more sense they have to make, so the message as well as the medium must change if communication is to be established.

Frankness and clearness are essential to communication in any field, otherwise no one is going to hear. Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac have always spoken of writing what you are really saying and thinking instead of the formal thing in literature. Ginsberg's 'Howl' seems so near and folk that it is hard to believe it wasn't written last week instead of 14 years ago.

So the content of songs matters more now, and when you are acoustic you cannot hide behind an amplifier. For one thing nobody ever plays their records as loud as some groups perform.

Being assaulted by volume presents the same sort of barrier as listening to teenybop or sentimental music. All of these concentrate on one thing which usually does not happen to be music, but sales or manipulation. Surely it is better to listen to Lennon and his wife making noises than a giant amp with no one at home. Volume and equipment are useful if used to some purpose. The gradual build-up of volume in the Floyd's Interstellar Overdrive is very effective, but it does build up, and has a musical use as well as being exciting. If people think that there is no power and excitement in acoustic music they should listen to Roy Harper sing 'McGoohan's Blues' which has just as much emotional impact as a loud long piece of Hendrix.

This can be the difference between talking TO people and talking AT them, and of course you can easily say nothing.

I once asked a friend what the lyrics of one of the String Band's songs meant, they seemed to be quite meaningless to me. He said listen to them when you're on a trip, but who goes around thinking I am the table cloth, and also the table? Someone smoking a joss stick? So how far is this folk?

When Louis Armstrong said 'We are all folk' meaning we are all people, I don't know that I agree. Mr. Nixon springs to mind. Politicians are hardly real even when seen in person. But folk is folk and nobody can touch it.

This is probably all understatement and overstatement and blinding glimpses of the obvious, but it's all worth it. It's all worth it.

Adrian May

Adrian May is a member of The Strange [illegible], a folk duo.

Photo: Graham Keen

SAVOY BROWN....

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HOOPLING FURIOUSLY

Photos: [illegible]

GUY STEVENS is a man one should learn to trust. Every normal entity, record, group, or individual performer he's ever recommended me has turned out to be a gas. But Mott the Hoople just didn't sound like they'd make it. I mean 'Mott the Hoople'? But there was never any pressure piled on the Sparkly cranium to see and hear the band – I happened upon them by chance whilst visiting the Stevens abode in quest of over-due record reviews. And they were nice affable sort of chaps. I thought little more of it.

Then with typical efficiency a white label of M-the-H's gramophone record sped thru the post and into the IT doormat. Strange record I thought and then got on with writing my column for the 'Isle of Ely Weekly Examiner'.

Implosion, many weeks and several memory lapses later, was the clincher. The dynamic GS was darting about positively swollen in his enthusiasm for his group and Jeff Dexter confirmed my suspicions that a good time was about to be had by all. 'Fucking amazing band' were I think his exact words. And indeed they were. Of course I should have listened when GS first told me and got into them immediately. Better late than never, is what I always whine when I'm grovelling.

THE ONLY ROCK & ROLL BAND OF THE SEVENTIES

Firstly, Mott the Hoople are a rock & roll band. Let there be no mistake about that. They play ragged, almost crude rhythms and they manage to emulate the almost ecstatic naivety of the Terry Dene's, Johnny Gentle's and Grant Thunderer's (I bet you don't remember HIM) of the late fifties. But their raison the overall basic structure of their numbers are more complex, more inspired than those really dreadful monstrosities that Tin Pan Alley churned out for so long. They have brought a tenacious (and probably transitory) sophistication to rock & roll and in doing so have transcended the acid/progressive rock of the late sixties and become the only rock & roll band of the seventies currently around.

Pete Dalton makes the observation in his review of the Blind Faith album (in this issue) that the music of BF probably marks the end of a tradition. Mott the Hoople may well mark the threshold of a new one that some chronicler of early seventies music will regard as a 'Pop Tradition'.

Don't get the impression from my adulating scribblings that M the H are playing technically brilliant music of supreme and undefinable originality 'cause they ain't.

'Anyone who says that they aren't influenced by someone else is a liar,' schizophrenic/singer/songwriter Ian Hunter. 'We've got lots of influences and what's more we're proud of them.'

The most immediate influence that anyone who has heard or will hear their album is that of Dylan. Two tracks – 'Half Moon Bay' and '[illegible]' — contain what trendy hard heads will instantly regard as Dylan riffs. The former in true has elements of 'Blowin' in the Wind' and 'Like a Rolling Stone' attached to it and Ian's voice is quite similar to that of Dylan. But is that his fault?

'To be quite honest,' he explained, 'I never wrote any song with Dylan consciously in mind. But because I love some of the stuff that he wrote around the 'Blonde on Blonde'/'Highway 61' era I suppose I must be affected by him.'

Personally speaking (as usual) I find what traits of Dylan there are in Mott the Hoople's music pleasantly nostalgic. It's like my favourite bits of Dylan have been cut and preserved in a thick spicy mush. And there are other influences, or affectations, that are as welcome as rubber pencil notes. There's a lovely portion of 'Half Moon Bay' where Ian and organist Verden Allen create a slow, tremendous, musical tapestry that smacks of Procol Harum (one of Guy Stevens' fave rave groups, I note — mine too!) and a prize Fisher/Brooker musical rap. I mentioned this to Mick Ralphs, guitarist and vocalist with the group, who blinked my head in and then said, 'Well again, there's this business of copying. I feel that everything we write and play is musically valid. I don't think of us as copying anybody but I should mention that the group in its present form has only been together about 8 months and so our initial writing efforts are well, affected by our greatest influences. We're still a very new group you see. After we've been together a bit longer I think Mott the Hoople's music will get more involved. We won't lose our 'influences' as such, they'll just be expressed in a different way, perhaps.'

PROCUL HARUM – THEY DON'T ASK YOU TO LISTEN

Procol Harum are actually a fantastic group playing such incredible stuff without any fuss or bother.

I mentioned that I considered Procol Harum as one of the few composers of modern classical music. Totally timeless, which is ultimately the test. Their music's classical in concept, if not in execution, but speed. 'Yeah, they just sit there and play. They don't ask you to listen, they just sit there and lay it all down. Same goes for Winwood of course and for the same reasons.'

Needless to say Winwood prompts the information from Mick that he used to jam with Jim Capaldi and Dave Mason. After a hazardous discourse which ended up with us comparing puns about the Flying Capaldi Brothers he explained that it was Jim who introduced Ian to the group. Ian joined the group after they'd left Hereford, although he'd lived one by in Shrewsbury until moving to Northampton and then London. 'It was quite funny really,' he said, 'the band were looking for a pianist and I'd been in as a bass player. So Guy said "Can you do anything?" and I thought, well, the F & C's about the safest thing and so I did "Laugh at me" — the Sonny and Cher number which rejoices as a Mott the Hoople arrangement on their album.'

Ian continued: 'Then there was a gap of a few weeks and one day when we were in the studio Guy came in and, well you know what he's like, he said "Try 'Laugh at Me'" so we did it, sort of a second time. I thought at the time it was released it had a lot more to it than Sonny put into it.'

And I thought that all Sonny Bono's productions were over-produced and relied too heavily on Mr Spector too, so I told him so.

'Yeah that's right, but all his songs, I mean the lines, were very strong ones and Guy adapted well to change all things. We do 'Laugh at Me' much slower than the original version for instance.'

And so they do, a thundering great monsoon of typically Hoopleish sound walls punctuated by some amazingly frenetic guitar work from Mick (obviously a force to be reckoned with in talk of future Supa Dupa Groups) after a nice casual treatment of the rest of the number.

The group's strong interest in some of the musically unrecognised giants goes several stages further than Procol Harum and Sonny & Cher. Mick Ralphs' favourite guitarists are people like James Burton who played on early Rick Nelson hits ('He's so incredibly fluid, sort of fast but natural and I gather Rick Nelson's making a comeback now, so we might hear some more of him') and some of the more poppy country guitar pickers. ('Some of the old guys who used to back the Everley Brothers were technically brilliant, but no one used to bother listening to them you know.')

Ian is a great fan of Steve Winwood's as he implied earlier and the whole group were digging Buffalo Springfield before Neil Young became the darling of the import record shops. This interest, which tenaciously deep-rooted in styles and forms that were never really latched onto by anyone at the time, is already showing in their music. If Mick and Ian (not forgetting the small/secret GS!) continue to develop this interest and move on to the groups and writers of the late sixties, one wonders which artists they'll acquire a penchant for now and how it'll affect their music?

Although they do an instrumental version of the Who's 'Can't Explain' on the album ('That number developed into a jam which lasted about 15 minutes, it was the best thing I've ever played,' said Ian. 'We cut the last bit off and stuck it on the last track of the album calling it Wrath & Wroll'.) no one has really arranged any of Townshend's later compositions. Think what the Hoople would do with 'I can see for Miles' or 'I'm a Boy'.

The Kink's material bears distinct similarities to Sonny Bono's work, though it's more sophisticated lyrically whilst being simpler as far as arrangements go. What about a Hoople 'Waterloo Sunset' or 'See my Friend' (which was an incredible but sadly ignored pop milestone)?

Overend Watts

Ian

Verden Allen

The thing is that Mott the Hoople are capable of doing it — and making it valid — unlike their American contemporaries who grab foreign material (ie 'British') and often emasculate it. Kooper's arrangement of 'Dear Mr Fantasy' is one ghastly example of this. Mott the H are British and yet, from the comparative quiet of Hereford, they've been able to view the British and American influences on British music from a detached viewpoint. They have a golden opportunity to surpass Vanilla Fudge at their own game as far as arranging and writing goes.

BIRMINGHAM U.S.A. AND BIRMINGHAM G.B. – BOTH WITH THE SAME PROBLEMS

Another sparkling Mott the Hoople opus is the 'Road to Birmingham', one of Ian's numbers which boasts a delicate set of lyrics regarding our old friend, racial prejudice. 'The song's about Birmingham USA as well as our Birmingham,' explains Ian. 'They've got the same problems with their black people. I know it's been said before but it still hasn't been said enough. I think it's scandalous that we should set up offices in the Commonwealth countries to try and entice people to come here to live, then treat them like shit when they get here. I just can't stand racial prejudice and there seems to be a lot of it in the Midlands. I'm not saying that, in certain cases, it's not without cause, I'm just saying that I can't stand it.'

Another thing that the group can't stand is the wet-bottoms of the business which they find themselves inside. 'There's very few people who you can really trust,' reflected Mick. 'That's why we're so happy about having Guy with us. In actual fact it's like having another member in the band. He has such tremendous enthusiasm for what we play, it was a bit overwhelming at first.

Island Records are good to be with as well. They're like an island in fact, far right away from everyone else in the business. They do things their own way, always having faith in the group's music rather than just their potential as a 'product'. It was a bit hard to get Guy to turn us at first, he wasn't too knocked out by our tapes, but eventually we got him to hear us at a real rehearsal studio and he really dug us. The very next day he had us recording demos and not long after that we made the album. That's how a record company should work — putting the music first.'

Yeah, bassist Overend Watts captured the conversation, 'and we recorded most of the numbers in one take! They couldn't believe it and nor could we. It was just so easy with Guy and Andrew (Johns) because they knew exactly where our music was at. In October we're doing our second album. It's fantastic that Island are prepared to put us back in the studios so quickly, taking down each stage of development we go thru.'

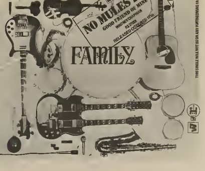
The rest of the group, that is the only one not mentioned so far, is Buffin, who plays drums. They were all in different groups back in Hereford (with the exception of Ian). Sometimes they played together in bands but eventually, as they left various groups or bands broke up they found themselves together. So the casual friendships of the past three years became a musical partnership.

What has been produced in a few months holds incredible promise for the future. Obviously Island, the company who signed Spooky Tooth (or Art as they were at that stage), King Crimson and Traffic as virtual unknowns, realised this. Their first album is released this month and will not fail to impress you...assuming you possess a pair of ears.

IMPLOSION – WE JUST DIDN'T BELIEVE PLACES LIKE THAT EXISTED

The things that are impressing them are worth noting, for a foreigner's viewing of the London scene is always objective and valuable for its detached viewpoint — if nothing else. They dig Implosion. 'We just didn't believe places like that existed,' said Ian. 'We all wanted to live there, it was so beautiful after playing pub ballrooms for three years.' They dig London generally in fact. 'There's a lot of people here, groups that is, that we've always admired and that we'd never see in Hereford. Sometimes though it's nice to go back there. London can become a bit too hectic.' 'There are sheep here!' interjected Buffin. 'Anyway I find that I can write better there.'

The only point that really remains is 'Will you Mott the Hoople?' Will you indeed. *



MY GOD DIS HAS GOT EVERYTHING IN IT!!
PLUG 'N SUCK it

THE ARTHUR PITT COLUMN

[illegible]

GENE VINCENT POPS AGAIN

Gene Vincent who, together with [illegible] group, the Blue Caps, was one of the legendary figures of British Rock and Roll, is back in a manner of speaking.

[illegible]

ALL SAINTLY AGAIN

Clearwater Productions, who have been running Friday night events at [illegible] Saints Church Hall, Notting Hill, are [illegible]

[illegible]

High Tide and Gypsy [illegible] Shaun Hadleigh [illegible] Judy Dyble[illegible]

TULL/BROWN/ALBERT HALL

[illegible]

IT [illegible]

ROCK N ROLL

The next issue of IT's virile, power packed music pages will be almost entirely dedicated to ROCK N ROLL in all its devious forms. We are particularly interested in getting hold of photographs of old rock and rollers that could be of possible use to us. Send them to the usual address and they'll be returned in good condition within the month. Honest.

PURPLE DO IT

The Albert Hall Concert on Wednesday September 24th, featuring Deep Purple in concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, was possibly the most important musical event since Epstein met the Beatles.

[illegible]

The 'Concerto for Group and Orchestra' [illegible]

[illegible]

Mark

CHICAGO DUE IN BRITAIN

Chicago Transit Authority [illegible]

[illegible]

EXPLANATIONS

[illegible]

EHE RAVER'S weekly GIN & TONIC

[illegible]

FEEDBAG

It's nice to see that the correspondence on the Feedback Page is building up but will potential letter writers please note that unless they submit their names and addresses (whether for publication or not) we can't consider their letters for publication. If you want a reply a stamped addressed envelope would put a smile on the face of the accounts department!

Music IT does not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed in Feedback

Dear Music IT & Dave Williams,

[illegible]

Peace

N [illegible]
One Stop Records
40 South Molton Street
W1

Dear Music IT

[illegible]

Love,

CHRISTOPHER.
London.

Dear Music IT

[illegible]

Co-ordinator [illegible]
Edinburgh.

Dear Madam/Sir/[illegible]

[illegible]

MIKE.
[illegible]
Godalming, Surrey

[illegible]

Marshall Engle
33a [illegible] Road
[illegible] London N5

Dear Music IT

[illegible]

FELIX DENNIS

Dear Music IT

[illegible]

SKYLIGHT AIN'T TUCKER.
[illegible] Folk Club,
[illegible]

Dear Music IT

[illegible]

STEVE
125 [illegible]
[illegible]

Dear Music IT

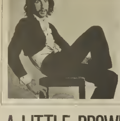
[illegible]

Love & Pax,

WILL McLELLAN,
25 [illegible]

ELLO ELLO ELLO, WHAT'S ALL THIS 'ERE THEN YOUNG MAN I'VE REASON TO BELIEVE YOUR STONED!
HA HA HA REALLY
SUDDEN BURST OF PARANOIA
WELL SMOKE THIS THEN SON SEE YER PLEASANT
EDWARDS

POP'S ENFANT TERRIBLE



[illegible]

A LITTLE BROWNED OFF

SO much has been written about Arthur Brown in the past, and written with the same underlying awe and amusement and amazement that is normally reserved for Tariq Ali and the same horrific fascination as is reserved for the Loch Ness Monster. He has been the spokesman, the scapegoat, the lovable freak who had the uneasy-making effect on one of having the upper hand because he knew what was really going on.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Joanna

SOUNDS

THE DEVIANTS — Transatlantic TRA 204

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

"THE ALBUM'S [illegible] AT [illegible]"

[illegible]

[illegible]

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BLIND FAITH Polydor 583 059

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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new disc. Me an'
the lads are gonna
turn anybody over
wot don't buy it.
luv, Aynsley and the boys

Savour for yourself the 'old world' charm of Britain's most respected blues outfit.

P.S. Produced by John Mayall

also featuring Tommy Eyre
from Joe Cocker's Grease Band

LIBERTY

SOUNDS

MOST OF THE REVIEWS ON THIS PAGE have an element of brevity. This is because so many new albums have been released during September, after the industry's annual August lull, and we must somehow make mention of them before becoming engulfed in October goodies [illegible]

[illegible] MusicIT has no 'grudges' against particular record labels. We try and judge every record by the music it contains [illegible] 33 rpm. [illegible] Conversely if a record company goes out of its way to put out an A1 product, we applaud the fact. And, of course, between these two extremes, we offer appropriate comment.

To suggest [illegible] just because a company places full page ads doesn't mean we're going to do a 22 page [illegible] The best way to run a [illegible] music paper is [illegible] That, in our best rhetorical manner, is how we try to do things.

TEA & SYMPHONY — AN ASYLUM FOR THE MUSICALLY INSANE Harvest SHVL 761

[illegible]

DEEP PURPLE Harvest.

[illegible]

IN THE COURT OF THE CRIMSON KING — King Crimson, Island ILPS 9111

[illegible]

HYPE NOTE: [illegible] GET review copies of the albums that are advertised in our cherished pages. [illegible] advertising [illegible] Actually it's a lovely business.

ANDWELLAS DREAM Love and Poetry CBS 63673
MANDRAKE MEMORIAL Medium Medium RCA/VICTOR SF 8028.

[illegible]

BRIDGET ST JOHN Ask Me No Questions Dandelion 63750.
JONI MITCHELL Clouds. Reprise RSLP 6341

[illegible]

NEIL YOUNG Reprise RSLP 6317
NEIL YOUNG Everybody Knows this is Nowhere Reprise RSLP 6349

[illegible]

SRC Milestones, Capitol EST 134

[illegible]

BEATLES Abbey Road Apple PCS 70[illegible]

[illegible]

TEN YEARS AFTER Sssh DERAM SML 1052

[illegible]

Sparky Mark

FLOCK — Columbia CS 9911

[illegible]

M.T.

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IMPLOSION

For News of Future Venues Ring BAY 7753

FARX
[illegible]

SUN 2 Oct EDGAR BROUGHTON
SUN 16 Oct. ROY HARPER & GYPSY
SUN 26 Oct. GRAHAM BOND INITIATION

D J [illegible]

GROOVESVILLE 69
WAKE ARMS EPPING
SUN 12th OCT G.B. GRAHAM BOND
SUN 19th OCT EAST OF EDEN

SUE'S
SMALLS

[illegible]

[illegible]

PROGRESSIVE [illegible]

PEOPLE, [illegible]

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL South Bank
Monday 20 October at 7.45 pm

DOMAINE MUSICAL

[illegible]
Conductor GILBERT AMY

[illegible]	VARESE
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	GILBERT AMY
[illegible]	BETSY JOLAS
[illegible]	[illegible]

Tickets [illegible]

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[illegible] Contemporary Arts Music Section

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SATURDAY (8-3am)
[illegible] NEW COMPTON ST WC2
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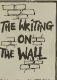

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